# THE INDEPENDENT

ON SATURDAY 102901

#### INSIDE TODAY

#### YOUR 5 SECTION PAPER



15M/Our magazine TAME OFF/ Sport, travel & leisure

MOUR MONEY/Personal finance, property & cars THE EYE/ Your full weekly television guide

#### **OTHER NEWS**

#### **BBC** breaks into world of round-the-globe news

The BBC is to launch a global 24-hour news service which will break the Sky monopoly in round-the-clock news. It is to launch in Britain next weekend, on Remembrance Sunday. That is, in one way, appropriate: for global newsgathering is still a field in which Britain is a world leader. The BBC is now only one of two television "superpowers", and is preparing for a headto-head struggle with the highly successful American cable station, CNN. Page 15

#### MP and the rottweiler

The maverick Tory MP Alan Clark offered a BBC TV cameraman money to drop a legal claim against him after he was bitten by the MP's rottweiler, a court heard yesterday. It was also alleged that Mr Clark put pressure on BBC bosses to force the cameraman to back down. Page 7

#### Gay war reparations claim

Gay rights activists are demanding reparations for the murder of tens of thousands of homosexuals by the Nazis in the holocaust. The German government is under pressure to acknowledge these atrocities and put up a memorial statue to dead gays at the Brandenburg Gate. Page 12

#### Girls in first official bout

Two girl boxers were making one of history's footnotes last night by taking port in the first officiallyapproved bout for women before a sell-out crowd in Wales. The fight between two 16-year-olds was allowed to take place after a change in the Queensberry rules. Page 15

#### Smacking video dropped

A businessman who developed a video promoting smacking children with a leather strap abandoned his plans, saying: 'I was way off the mark" Page 18

#### Tube fares to rise

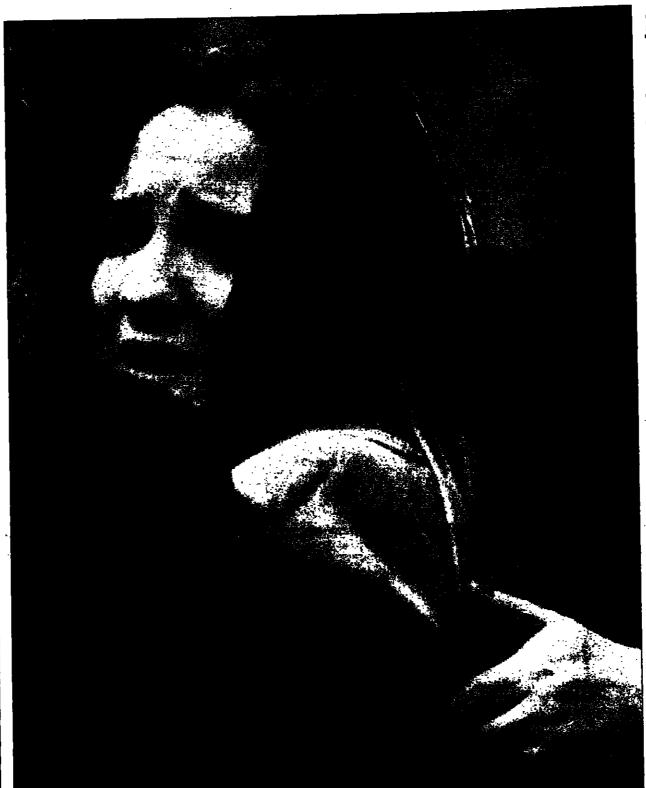
Consumer watchdogs accused London Transport of "unacceptable and unreasonable behaviour" after it announced fare increases which will lead to the cost of some tickets rising by 8 per cent Page 18

#### Iraq stands firm

Iraq will not back down on its decision to bar Americans from taking part in UN arms monitoring. At the same time Washington refuses to rule out military action Page 16



# Broken-voiced young nanny begins her sentence as lawyers fight back



Look of anguish: Louise Woodward is devastated after being found guilty of murder Photograph: Ted Fitzgerald/Reuters

Sunil and Deborah Eappen went back to court yesterday as Louise Woodward was sentenced for killing their child. They spoke sentimentally about their loss, citing even Winnle the Pooh. But they said nothing about mercy for Louise, whose life as a free woman is vanishing.

Louise Woodward, the British teenager convicted of second-degree murder of baby Matthew Eappen, started a life sentence in a maximum security prison in Massachusetts last night as her defence team prepared motions to the court to have her guilty verdict thrown out or reduced.

In court proceedings yesterday morning that were almost a match for the grisly theatricals of the delivery of her guilty verdict late the night before, Judge Hiller Zobel passed what the mandatory sentence for second-degree murder in the state - life in prison with the possibility of parole only after 15 years.

hear motions from the defence that will attempt in three different ways to mitigate their client's misery. They will ask Judge Zobel to throw out the verdict, to ask for a new trial or to reduce the charge to involuntary manslaughter with a much lighter sentence. These are routine procedures in the state, however, with - on the face of it

- little chance of success. a pale shirt and brown skirt, rose briefly to reassert, in a broken voice, that she was innocent of murdering Matthew, the ninemonth-old baby for whom she had been caring as a nanny when he lapsed into an

ultimately fatal coma on 4 February. Moments before, the parents of Matthew, Deborah and Sunil Eappen, just a few feet to Louise's left, also spoke in highly emotional – and, probably to a in life and their distress in his death. It years in prison.

British andience at least, cloyingly sentimental - terms about the unfathomable loss and grief that they had suffered. Such statements are also routine in the United

"I'd just like to maintain my innocence." Louise began, "And that I never hurt Matknow what happened to him". She went on, saying, "I'm not responsible for his death," before emotion choked off all further words and she slumped back to her

Just 12 hours earlier, Louise had broken down into bone-chilling, hysterical sobbing after the forewoman of the jury, at 9.45pm Boston time, read out the verdict: "Guilty". Then again yesterday, as Woodward's parents, Gary and Susan, who ap-

#### BY DAVID **USBORNE**

The court will reconvene on Tuesday to peared catatonic in their shock, were allowed a few moments with their daughter before she was taken from the courthouse into custody.

Still yesterday, the shock of the verdict reverberated around Boston, around all of the US and, above all around Britain. Through the 19-year-old's crying penetrated the dreadful realisation that it was a verdict she had herself contributed to. On Barely able to stand, Louise, dressed in Monday she had opted to take an all-ornothing gamble by asking the jury to consider acquittal or guilty of murder only and no lesser verdicts of, for instance,

> Her face swollen by crying, Mrs Eappen spoke first in what is termed the "victim impact statement". Her address was an emotional memoir about the child she and her

would not have been amiss on Oprah Win-

frey's television show.

"Matthew was a beautiful baby with black silky hair and rich chocolate eyes. He was a real butterball, he was so content," she began. In serial references to Brendan, her elder son who was two when Matthew ty, I would never hurt Matty and I don't died, she said: "I physically remember having two babies, one on each leg of my lap, and Brendan would say: "Let's do two boys, mom". And, alluding to the larger stature of Matthew, she added: "They were so beautifully different, like Tigger and Win-

> Unable to hold back his tears, Sunil Eappen then rose and said: "I feel that the jury's decision is just and the state's mandatory punishment is deserved, and despite my hatred for the actions of Louise and my current disdain for her, I really truly hope that she can face up to what she has done, gam forgiveness and I truly hope that she may someday find the peace of God in her life

> The hopes of Woodward and of her family, so unexpectedly dashed, now lie with the defence lawyers. They have until Monday to submit their three motions to Judge Zobel. While he will hear one hour of arenments from each side on the merits of the motion on Tuesday, it could be days or weeks thereafter until he makes a final decision.

> Members of the defence team refused to speculate about the arguments they will marshall. However, among them will certainly be an appeal to Judge Zobel simply to throw out the verdict on the grounds that the evidence of the prosecution to prove their case was insufficient. They may also claim unfair treatment of Woodward because of adverse pre-trial publicity.

While experts in Boston thought such an outcome highly unlikely - although some precedents do exist - the chances of the judge reducing the verdict, to involuntary manslaughter, is more conceivable. In that instance, the sentence would be at his dishusband had lost, their joy in having him cretion and could be as low as only a few

#### She's guilty

6A tragedy for this little girl but... I believe her to be guilty?

Senior pathologist, page 5

#### No she isn't

6The conviction was a miscarriage of justice.? Leader, page 22

#### The court drama

6A small, defenceless, terrified child, crying for all her life. Because suddenly her life has been taken away? David Usborne, page 3

#### Nanny agony

A contract made in hell, which brings out the worst in people? Polly Toynbee on middle-class women and their hunt for good nannies.? Page 23

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No Money To Feed The Children No Money To Heat The Orphanages Bulgaria is a country in the midst of a serious economic crisis. Unless urgent help is sent, thousands of children will suffer terribly this winter.

There is little money to heat the orphanages. Orphanage Directors are having to beg for food from local villages and rarely know where the next meal is coming from. In some areas children, like Yordan, are going hungry and the cold could prove fatal for many children this winter. Without aid this could be catastrophic for Bulgaria's

orphanage children. The European Children's Trust, sister charity of The Romanian Orphanage Trust, is ready to distribute emergency food packs, clothes and fuel to the orphanages in most need. Your gift today will save lives and bring hope.

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Return to: Tanya Barron, (IDI), Bulgaria Emergency Appeal, The European Children's Trust, FREEPOST KB8399 64 Queen Street, LONDON, BC48 4AR or call LAX. European 01273 299399 NOW. Registered Charity No. 1048737

Please act NOW - winter is coming

# Britain's xenophobic response hides the real issue – a clash of cultures

It has not been an easy week to be an American. "Oh send that ily Britain slips into insularity poor little girl home!" chorused a group watching Louise Woodward on television in midweek. Everyone around us nodded in agreement. Except me.

Why should Louise Woodward go home if she is guilty? Why is it that whenever a British girl ends up on trial abroad, she must be innocent. Or, if not innocent, then not really guilty. Certainly not the kind of guilty that involves consequences.

and ignorance.

On Thursday night, an expert appeared on the BBC's Newsnight programme to say that such a thing would never happen in a British court. More frightening still is that many people probably believe that and some have even asked me.

It is this kind of xenophobia that hides the real issue between America and Britain over this case and that is cultural.

Louise may have thought she was heading off on a gap year where she would squeeze some work in while having lots of fun

ANN TRENEMAN

in America. But there is no concept of "gap year" in the United States, nor is there any

widespread understanding of thing that people want to talk. The next thing to be of American parents to take uncline rather slippery role of an about. Instead they want to attacked was the American blame. "How could they treat the country of the

America is a work-oriented Successful professionals - take two weeks vacation a year. At then go back to work.

It is also a country that takes contracts seriously. In general may be held to it.

But this is not the kind of again no court system is.

another week). "Why is that little girl even Christmas you take one day and on trial?" asked a woman. If you are American the only thing to do upon hearing this was to shrug. The US justice system is you can assume that if you sign in no way perfect - miscarriages a piece of paper in America you of justice can occur even in death penalty cases - but then

find fault with American justice childcare system. "In the US, (though it could just as easily be there just hasn't been a strong society. People-even extremely France or Italy or Thailand on appreciation of the need for zling. quality child-care," says Ann

Columbia University in New York. I'm not sure who Ann Collins has been talking to but all the working parents I know

in America talk of little else.

her like a skivvy?" was a typical comment. I found this puz-

Louise was required to make Collins, a senior researcher on . dinger one night a week, do the child care at the National Con-children's laundry, change the she may have decided the job tre for Children in Poverty at sheets and keep the rooms tidy. She was also asked to help set the table and empty the dish-

It's not a great life - espe-Then, finally, it was the turn plus room and board - but it's can say this week.

not the end of the world either Lots of parents in this country insist on similar devotion to duty while paying a pittance.

If Louise Woodward had known more about what was was not for her.

The underlying story is one of clashing cultures, not which system of justice would have provided a fairer trial. But cially for a measly \$115 a week that's not the kind of thing you

# We are ready to fight, say supporters

A new determination has gripped the people of Elton, the Cheshire home of the Woodward family. "We are ready for the fight," said Linda Reynolds, a key campaigner for the release of Louise Woodward. "The first feelings of shock have now gone. Just look around you - all and Louisc, it's done wonders for us."

Ms Reynolds was talking outside the Rigger public house, where campaigners had gathcast of the scatencing of Louise Woodward.

Earlier, supporters had felt the 19-year-old au pair's fear and distress as the verdict was announced.

Debbie Lalor, 36, who often invited Louise to babysit for her daughter Georgina said: "Her cries were harrowing. They will stay with us forever, whatever happens now.

The impulse to reach out reassure her as well as her parents, Sue and Gary Woodward.

"We intend to keep them out there close to Louise for as long as it takes. We have had tremendous support from around the world. We are now setting up a website to keep people informed, and let them know where to send their donations."

Ms Lalor was talking after 48 hours without sleep. Her energy has returned with the swell of dom for Louise, which had been reinforced by telephone calls and

messages from well wishers. As Ms Lalor stepped into the Rigger in time for the live broadcast of the sentencing. she was stopped by another mother who wanted to tell her of an idea to help the Woodwards - the sale of small yellow

ribbons as symbols of her return home. Ms Lalor welcomed the idea, and as she spoke a large yellow ribbon was being tied around a tree outside the pub. Then Ms Lalor was swept away to join other campaigners for photographs to be taken at the tree. They were anxious the picthese people, supporting us ture would show the Woodwards and the rest of the world

that they had not given up. Meanwhile, angry Britons flooded the American embassy in London with calls yesterday. ered to wait for the live broad- Staff played the address and fax number of the district attorney's office in East Cambridge, Massachusetts to callers wishing to complain about American justice after many callers became

Officially the embassy would not "characterise" the nature of the phone calls, but one embassy staffer said that many of the calls verged on the ludicrous: "All of the calls were negative, some called us all manner and touch Louise was great, to of evil things and some were just

"There were people connecting the trial of Louise to America's position on global warming and to our supposed support of the IRA.

"There were others who were just really upset. They were polite and considerate, but they had a need to talk to someone about

The embassy pointed out it is a local court matter unrement: "We would not be happy if it impacted on America's relationship with the British,"

said a press spokesman. The court can be reached via the Office of the District Attorney, 40 Thorndyke St. E. Cambridge, Mass. 02141. Fax: 001 617 225 0871.

- Esther Leach



Disbelief: Supporters in Louise Woodward's home village of Elton react as the court gives the guilty verdict

#### Americans express shock and sympathy

That is a television cameraman, I don't know his name, packing his equipment into his van at two in the morning. He knows I am English and he is speaking of Louise Woodward's murder conviction.

Minutes later the hotel public enthusiasm to win free- lated to the federal govern- tionist says: "It is wrong; she's innocent. I'm so sorry".

There are not many voices in can hear applauding the jury's verdict. If the defence yesterday was expressing shock and deep disappointment at the decision, it is far from alone. If they want to make Woodward's appeal into a cause célèbre, a Guildford Four of the

from Colorado. I have a daughter did however. 20 months old. I know how much she falls and hits her head".

was hosed. I'm really unhappy. I saw Boston, perhaps not in America, I her on trial. I believed her. I really don't think she did it".

Those at the trial who believed she would be found innocent had based that optimism in part also on the feeling that this jury, perhaps any jury, simply would not want to see another life lost, if not actually lost

"It's awful. It's terrible, I just don't did not prevail in the jury room. believe she did it," said Kim Taylor. Outside, amongst the millions 28, a tourist who was visiting Boston watching the trial on cable TV, they case and the way it was handled".

Another man on the street, a we're sending another kid to jail," Bostonian exclaimed: "I think she said Bob O'Neil, a hotel manager in the city. "It's the second tragedy. The first one is Matthew Eappen. The second one is we're sending this

girl to jail." And there was anxiety too among Americans about how Britons would react to the verdict. The British re- away from the jury - which was supsponse, suggested Rich Davenport, posed to to be a strategic move - has has "less to do with the legal system

'It sucks, I'm telling you, it sucks'. United States, they should have lit- then lost in a sentence in jail. Such and more to do with it being an emotle difficulty. More voices yesterday: sympathetic thoughts apparently tional issue. I don't think it's fair to blame the American justice system in general. It's just this particular

> Even experts in Boston's legal "I was disappointed. Not in the community were astonished and jury, but I didn't want to believe dismayed. Mostly they lamented the decision, taken by Woodward herself, to opt to deny the jury the chance to deliver a lesser verdict of manslaughter. "It's easy in hindsight to second-guess everything that went on," said defence lawyer Robert Gorege. "But its clear that taking the manslaughter verdict in a way backfired".

#### No apparent clue to jury's reasoning

Exactly what happened in the room holding the alternate jurors on Thursday night is still murky. What is clear is that these four men, who were weeded out by drawing lots from the 16 who had heard the evidence throughout, were devastated when they were informed of the verdict.

One court officer told of bedlam, and in particular of one alternate juror who picked up a chair in his anger and hurled it across the room.

News of the scuffle is scant consolation for the defence team, which expressed distress at the very moment that the 16 were reduced to 12. Louise had lost the four jurors that the defence has identified as the most sympathetic to their case.

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One of the four alternate jurors, Robert Mangold, said: "I was wondering if these people were sitting in the same courtroom as I was these last three weeks." He said the four men who did not take part in the deliberations began to realise, through eye contact with the jury during breaks, what was happening. "And then anger set in," said Mr Mangold.

"We refused to speak to anyone. They would take a break and come into our room only because of the camaraderie that there was between the 16 of us. We just didn't want that any more. The prosecution did not prove their case beyond a reasonable doubt." They reached that conclusion mostly because they were the four with the most impressive educational qualifications. One was Harvard-educated; another was an electrical engineer.

Barry Scheck knew this was bad, because these were the jurors perhaps most equipped to analyse and accept the often highly complex medical evidence.

This was particularly important, Scheck contended in a small-hours press conference, because the jury had freely admitted that they had been prejudiced against Louise by pre-trial publicity, almost all of which had been negative for the defendant.

If there is any slim chance in a possible appeal for Louise it may be in this area: that the pre-trial publicity was so ubiquitous that it was impossible to find jurors unaffected by it. The jury selection system is meant to enable the defence team to get round this problem, but it was evidently impossible in this case.

by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

David Usborne

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Australia (dollars)	2.29	Malta (lira)	0.61
Austria (schillings)	19.63	Netherlands (guilders)	3.14
Belgium (francs)	57.68	Norway (kroner)	11.42
Canada (\$)	2.28	Portugal (escudos)	283.75
Cyprus (pounds)	0.82	Spain (pesetas)	234.83
Denmark (kroner)	10.69	Sweden (kroner)	12.23
France (francs)	9.34	Switzerland (francs)	2.28
Germany (marks)	2.80	Turkey (lira)	294,017
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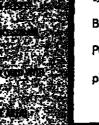
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1 NOVEMBER 1997

SATURDAY

THE INDEPENDENT

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by knew it would be wrong unist, cruel in the extreme. Trials are slow affairs – this took almost a month - but k moment of revelation came

with startling speed. It was only minutes before the envelope

do this to me ... I'm only 19".

could not, physically, stand.

How ridiculous all our plan-

They have done this to her and their relief, their departure for home or for a holiday with their daughter, was going to be our story of the night. Now, trying to ambush them for reaction seemed absurdly inappropri-

In a few minutes, Louise had been calmed, Andrew Good, perhaps-the most sympathetic of her defence lawyers, held her, ran his hands through her hair. "Sssh", he said repeatedly. Barry Scheck, his colleague, hung slightly to one side. He could not move, he said later.

Then the judge was back, still looking pale. It was he who three days earlier had agreed to allow this girl to take the camble that now looked so appallingly mistaken, to ask the jury to consider only the options of Murder

When the judge asks for objections to his proposal that sentencing be delayed until the morning, there are none. And so he orders the bailiffs remove Louise from the courtroom. The women among them gather gradually around the defence table and calmly she is led to a door at the back of the court and her parents go with them. They are allowed a few moments with their daughter in a room elsewhere in the building. It is only a few more minutes, however, before she is taken to the ground floor and the sher-

iff's van waiting outside.

#### The Eappens tell of their 'beautiful baby'

Marthew Eappen's parents, Deborah and Smil Eappen, made a witness impact statement before sentence was passed on Louise Woodward. Mrs Eappen said: "On May 24 1996, we gave birth to a healthy baby boy. We named him Mannew - gift from God.

"Manhew was a beautiful baby with black silky hair and rich chocolate eyes. He was a real butterball. He was so content. He made his needs known and when they were met he was happy again. A real smiling baby, he was the object of great affection from his two-year-old brother Brendan, who proudly announced: Brendan makes baby Matthew feel better ...

"I loved Matty's weight in my arms, his head on my shoulder, his hot breath tickling my neck and his gentle hand pressing my chin and I loved to snuggle and get cosy with my two boys.

"In December '96, I wrote a letter to Matthew on a card that showed a lot of kids on a sunny day in the Boston Gardens during the Dublin parade. And I wrote: You are really a joy, never fussy and always sweet and easy to comfort. You can tell that your personality will calm and laid back. You are confident that your needs will be met'. I wrote how loving and protective Brendan was, how Dad adores you and how Matthew laughs a great laugh. Your wonderful calm spirit is one that melts my heart. I want you to know Matthew, how special you are to us, even at such a young age'.

"At Christmas, I gave Matthew a book called Brothers and Sisters and inscribed it with: 'You have added so much joy to our family. Dad and I love your smile and giggles. You are so amusing to each other. We can feel your love as brothers is strong alтеаdy. We are so lucky and so proud of you. You are our sunshine, Matthew'. We loved this little bundle of joy, our chumbermunchkin and we thought that life looked good, that things had fallen into place after medical school and residency, and after getting settled in our new jobs.

"Only one week before February 4, Sunny and I were talking and thanking God. We are so blessed. And we dreamed of Matthew's future and of Matty running to-

gether, playing ball and roughhousing ... "And to wiry little Brendan we would joke: "You'd better be nice to your brother, he's going to be a lot bigger than you'. They were so beautifully different, like Tigger and Winnie the Pooh. We felt happy and secure. We loved our family. I wouldn't change a thing." On February 4 1997, all our hopes and dreams were torn apart. Our Matty had

Matthew was dying. We couldn't believe it. "It was all inconceivable. It was beyond our comprehension that our Matty was dying because someone we trusted had hurt him. We couldn't give up hope. We wished for a miracle. We would love Matty any way, he didn't need to be perfect.

"Could he survive, with maybe half a brain? But repeated tests and CAT scans showed that there was nothing to save. The whole brain was destroyed. There would be no life for Matthew.

"On February 9, we made the most painful decision of our lives. We had to let Matty go. Matty died in our arms, surrounded by family, including his loving twoand-a-half-year old brother, Brendan. Despite the tubes and IVs and surgical dressing covering his head, he looked to me like a little prince.

"Since that day, our lives have completely altered. Our hearts are heavy every day with the most excruciating pain. How can we be accepting any of this? How can we go on? Can we be happy again?"

"I get flashbacks of learning this has hapened to my little defenceless baby Matthew. I am sickened to think he was crying for help but was instead beaten by the hands that were supposed to be caring for him. She didn't look scary to me. She didn't seem like a child abuser or a monster or murderer. We had no idea she would harm our kid.

"I am scared now when I hear an ambulance. I have nightmares, I am afraid to answer the phone or door. We are not safe. The unspeakable has happened and now anything could happen. My assumptions about life are now my goals; that my children will be safe, my marriage intact and my life one day happy again. I can't end without speaking for Brendan. He was so upset by someone he care for.

"He had so many questions: 'How can baby Matthew die? What is death? Where is heaven? He would look up to the stars to say good night to Matty. 'I love you. How was it up in heaven today?' ...

"He asked the question: Why did Louise hurt Matty? Why did Louise hit Matty's head with something hard?' And he cried and I had no answers. And his questions will haunt me forever. How? What exactly happened? How long did Matty suffer. Why?

"Every day we are faced with the challenge how to go on living without Matthew. I am so grateful to those who have helped and supported us.

"I am so sorry now for all the pain that everyone involved must suffer. I am hope-

#### Sunil and Deborah Eappen sitting in court to hear their nanny, Louise Woodward, sentenced to life imprisonment Photograph: Stephen Senne/Reuters How Louise lost the image battle

The trial of Louise Woodward, played out on television screens across two nations, was ultimately one about image. Jojo Moyes looks at how a 'cool, composed child-killer' was pitted against a perfect American couple - and how both sides suffered under scrutiny.

It was telling that not one of the jury could look at Louise Woodward when the verdict was announced. As she sobbed uncontrollably, it had suddenly struck home that despite the picture of a selfish and callous murderer presented by prosecution, the Eappens and talk shows across America, Louise Woodward was still, ultimately,

Two distinct images of Louise have emerged over the past three weeks; images that exposed huge differences in two nations that more usually stress their cultural similarities. In Britain, the slightly pudgy a significant proportion of

The hour was late and

a very young girl

teenager with the Alice band Americans her English 'reshad won praise for her unperturbable demeanour in court. A vegetarian, who lived off vending machine snacks in prison in order not to eat meat, she was an intelligent but not streetwise teenager, a fact borne out by her slightly star-struck attendance

of the local musical Rent. Her low-key, slightly unfashionable wardrobe and lack of make-up emphasised her naïvety. This was a girl who could talk gigglingly of "tummytime", of how she would crawl in an unembarrassed effort to teach her charge to crawl.

Yet the Louise many Americans saw was quite different. She was, according to the prosecution, a "little actress", a cool, composed, nightmare nanny determined to do whatever she had to do to get off her charge. The nervous half-smiles during her early testimony, a sign to most Britons of extreme youth under heavy pressure, became a sign of her

As one American man, emailing a Louise Woodward Internet site, said yesterday: "To erve' seems to be a mark of cold-hearted villainy. Americans' ... popular criterion of emotional health, ie weeping in public, heart-on-sleeve maudlin sentimentality, is generally seen

in the UK as repulsive." In contrast, Deborah and Sunil Eappen's emotional state fully met that "popular criterion". In court they made a huge impact with their controlled testimony, tempered by weeping as they recalled the last

moments of their son's life. legal téam's dream. Deborah and Sunii Eappen - known to everyone as "Sunny" - had married in 1990 after meeting at medical school in Chicago. The attractive professional couple, in their early thirties, lived in the leafy suburb of Newton, just outside Boston, and set up a "careful balancing act" between childcare and careers.

Yet even the Eappens' image began to suffer as the trial drew to a close. Since the tragedy Deborah Eappen has received hundreds of letters of condolence. But she has also increasingly been the target of hate mail accusing her of

putting ambition ahead of her was too composed for the jury's children's welfare. comfort. She was later acquitted, although her demeanour

was still found wanting.

Ironically, as a polished

Deborah Eappen yesterday

read a lengthy, emotive "witness

impact statement", again con-

demning Woodward for the

death of their "butterball" son,

it was Louise who commanded

shaken girl who could only

mutter, "I didn't hurt Matty. I

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One commentator said she had been "transformed by personal tragedy into a public symbol of maternal neglect and yuppic greed". And in a TV interview it was noted that the Eappens were relaxed and smiling - the same things Louise had been condemned for during

her lengthy court appearances. the most sympathy; a pale, Perversely, Louise's image has undergone a transformation in recent days. Yesterday, it was don't know what happened", as largely the prosecution left still she was sentenced to life the jury, who had lined up in the OJ case for lucrative post-trial deals, did not want to speak to waiting press.

Callers to the Boston Globe yesterday overwhelmingly opposed the conviction, A Boston Herald columnist, Margery Eagan, commented: "It is hard to reconcile that image of rage with the very human young British woman who testified about cuddling Matthew Eappen and giving him lots of tummy-time."

It is hard not to draw comparisons with the case of Lindy Chamberlain, the Australian woman convicted of murdering her baby, another woman who

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#### You could smell the guilty verdict as though it were death itself

faces all around were was passed from the jury to the riven with exhaustion. judge and the Clerk of the born of anticipation and Court invited the foreperson to state how the defendant had dread. The jury had a been found. Guilty. Guilty of verdict but could it what? Guilty of murder in the possibly be guilty? second degree. David Usborne was in the The shock permeated your every cell, right into the bone courtroom, sitting marrow. A silent shock, no one directly behind the was at liberty in this most grave defendant and next to of moments to utter anything. her parents, when the All of us at once took a giant breath - a great intake of oxyforewoman spoke the gen to fuel our disbelief. The single word, 'guilty'. judge is thanking the jury, sympathising with the pain it must have gone through, but it is hard

Did anyone know what the verto pay attention. And Louise dict was before the envelope was Woodward is standing and calm. opened and the jury forewoman It is only as Judge Hiller Zowas invited to speak? Technibel, a normally chipper figure cally, they cannot have done. full of dry wit who now looks But surely, they did. The atsimply ashen and hollowed of mosphere from the moment the all humour, is finishing his court was called in session at piece that the bawling begins. 9,33pm was so grim you could Great gasps of anguish. smell it as if it was death itself. What we are hearing, of It was the bailiffs, in their

course, is the child that Louise white shirts and black trousers Woodward had hitherto managed to bide. A small, desanding in a line, backs to the court chamber and facing the fenceless, terrified, child crying public gallery, who gave us the for all her life. Because her life almost telepathic warning. Like has suddenly been taken away just at the moment she thought the chorus in a Greek tragedy, she was going to be given it they wore faces as impassive as they were expressive. They back. And this was not meant new, I could feel it. They knew to be happening. was going to be guilty. And

She cries in great convulsions. I feel a brief shot of satisfaction that this is beginning just before the jurors get to leave. They should hear this.

they should not leave thinking she is composed. Because it is the bawling of an innocent person, wronged. A guilty person would sag, not scream out. "I didn't do it. I didn't do anything ... I didn't hurt Matty. I didn't do anything", she cried. And Louise looked straight at them as she implored: "How can they

She does not look at her mother and father, Susan and Gary Woodward, who are next to me and behind the barrier that cuts the chamber in two. I catch Susan mouthing "unbelievable" to Gary but otherwise they are quiet, glazed. In fact, Susan looks catatonic. When the judge leaves for a few minutes and the officers call "All rise", Susan and Gary remain seated. A protest against a justice system that has done their child wrong? More probably they

Behind Gary and Susan, other Woodward family members weep. The rest of us - the media who had been waiting likewise through deliberations that lasted 27 bours, remain frozen. I am glancing towards the Woodwards because it is my inb to record their reaction. But I feel dirty doing so.

ning of the past few days seems now - how we were going to break away from the courthouse as soon as possible to tail the Woodwards. We had to incarceration. Incarceration. thought that their happiness, she must feel, for eternity.

ate. They would be left alone.

One and Iwo, and acquittal.

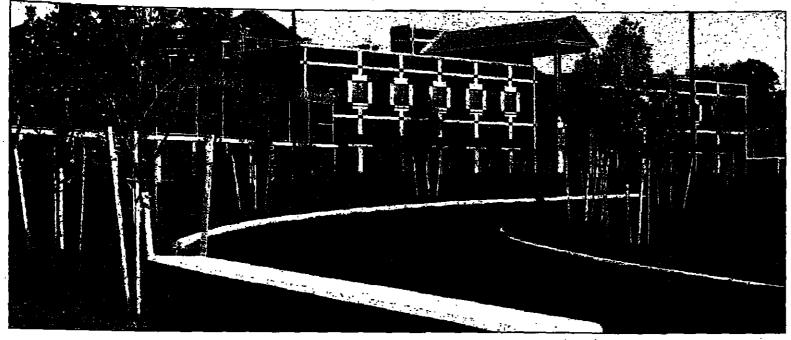
She is not going home, but

#### Jail 'like a tour in hell'

The jail where Louise Woodward has been sentenced to spend at least the next 15 years has greatly deteriorated in the past few years under a tough new prison policy, according to a leading United States penal reformer.

The former nanny yesterday started her life term at Massachusetts Correctional Institution in Framingham, near Boston, the state's only prison for women, which holds about 640 inmates. A recent Massachusetts governor said that gomg to his state prisons should resemble a tour through hell.

The prison holds top-secu-



derers, as well as about 100 women awaiting trial. The number of immates has been rising under the state's tough new mandatory sentences for certain

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population grew by 75 per cent from 1986 to 1991, to 39,000. In the Eighties, the Framingham jail introduced facilities

a women's mentoring scheme ployment training. However, rity criminals, including mur- crimes. The US female prison fenders to spend time with the National Centre on Insti- Bill Weld, has been on a law-

their children. More recently, tutions and Alternatives, and a former head of youth jails in offered parenting and em- Massachusetts, warned that many of the reforms had been such as family rooms for of- Dr Jerome Miller, president of reversed. "The last governor, the circles of hell," he said."

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# Agency faces huge bill for defence costs

The defence bill for Louise Woodward is believed to have reached the best part of £500,000 and is being paid for by the agency which placed her. Louise Jury looks at the financial cost of the trial and what the case means for the au pair business.

The EF Au Pair Agency which arranged for Louise Woodward to work for the Eappens has so far paid for her legal costs in the interests of "truth and justice".

The bill so far is understood to be in the region of £460,000. This includes £60,000 for Barry Scheck, her defence attorney, who won fame for picking apart forensic evidence when he represented OJ Simpson. Another £36,000 went in fees to six medical experts.

But the final cost could be much higher, especially if the Eappens sue EF Au Pair. A spokesman for the agency said: Louise and her family have our full support. We firmly believe Louise is innocent."

Other au pair agencies are also bracing themselves for a backlash as the bad publicity surrounding Matthew Eappen's death slows the flow of applications to au pair programmes.

Sandra Landau, director of Childcare International, which sends au pairs to the States and receives them from Europe and Scandinavia, said the case had alarmed potential applicants.

Yet the American au pair system was much more tightly regulated than the British. through eight authorised agencies. Something was more likely to go wrong in Britain than in the States.

Mrs Landau said: "We have always been impressed by the care taken by the US immigra-

tion authorities over these

applications. They are very strict. The girl has to come up with the necessary references." exact of deal still un

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By comparison, there were no checks made in Britain where there was only the security of working through a reputable agency, Mrs Landau said.

She defended the an pair system and pointed out that the Eappens could have chosen a fully qualified namey. "We think it's a wonderful opportunity for any young person to have a carefully protected stay in the States. And, for American families, it's a guaranteed reliable service of childcare for a year."

The agency, Au Pair in America, said other factors, including fewer people taking gap years before university, were contributing to the slow-down in

applications for posts in the US. Sandrine Picquard, of Au Pair International, said demand for au pairs would continue, but the case might make people reflect more on what happens in Britain. "The net in America is very, very tight. Here, a lot of people don't want to pay an agency." She added: "I know people who have been in my business for 50 years and when I ask them how many horror stories like this they've heard, they say none."

Since Matthew Eappen's death, regulations in the States have been tightened further with the co-operation of agencies, including EF Au Pair. An pairs taking care of children under the age of two must have at least 200 hours of childcare experience and undergo eight

hours of safety training. Yet, three years ago, parents had objected when the age of au pairs was raised to 21 and their pay increased.

Maureen Smith, of the Council for Awards in Children's Care and Education in Britain, said they always strongly recommended that a person looking after children should be qualified. "It's not an easy task."



#### 'Wild child' put nanny off job

who visited the Eappen family shortly before Louise Woodward got the job - said: "I got and Sunil Eappen, did not apa strange feeling it was not right there, sort of a gut feeling.

work rather than return home.

bit her during the interview. "The second child was very boisterous at the interview. While I was there I was very concerned about the safety of

"He bit my hand - not that that was a major big deal - but it made me realise that he had a biting problem. He came and sat on my knee and pulled my

naughty behaviour. I was concerned that he was going to bang into something.

"It was more than hyperactive. I thought he could do damage to himself and I was uncomfortable with looking after

him," she told GMTV. She said the parents, Debbit pear concerned about the child's behaviour, although Mrs Eappen said at one point that the boy "could be a bit of a handful".

Baby Matthew was about sit .... months old at the time of the interview.

"He was quiet, he was sitting in a cradle, just playing with 1 toy. He was a good baby," Ms Blood said.

But she turned down the job because she did not think she would be happy working there she added.

Ms Blood said that Mr and Mrs Eappen did not appear to ... be concerned when she said she had no experience of looking. after babies.

Mrs Eappen had said she would show her "everything you need to know, she said. Asked if she was glad stage

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A British woman said yesterday a little bit more than just

that she had turned down a joh as nanny with the Eappen family because of the "wild" behaviour of their other child, whom she feared could hurt himself.

Catherine Blood (above) -She rejected the job even though she was desperate to get

Ms Blood, from Carlisle, said baby Matthew seemed to be a "good haby", but she was unhappy about the behaviour of the family's other child, Brendan, now two-and-a-half, who

him. I was standing there looking around me, feeling very ill

"He was basically a pretty wild child. I am used to looking said: "Very, because this could after difficult children, but it was have been me."

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# Russia's old hand at the helm

RUSSIA'S LAZARUS Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, started out as the man Boris Xeltsin did not want as head of government, and has ended up in control of the destiny of the President - or put more cruelly, of the pace and manner of his political demise.

President Clinton, who spent much of last week being told by his advisers that Mr Yeltsin was likely to be out of office by the time he arrived in Moscow for today's summit, now finds that his opposite number in Moscow has pulled off the most extraordinary of his many survival acts to date. A deal between the Communist-dominated parliament and Chernomyrdin is intended to shore up the President until the Kremlin elections planned for the year 2000.

But it is Chernomyrdin who is pulling the President's strings, and to him that the US will appeal to save Russia's battered reforms, just five months after a panicked Yeltsin sacked him, only to re-appoint him last week after the sudden rouble devaluation brought on an even greater panic. Chernomyrdin's eclipse of Yeltsin is the latest step in a tortuous and ambiguous relationship between the two men which began in 1992, when the former head of Gazprom, the natural gas industry, was imposed on Yeltsin in his first defeat by the Congress of People's Deputies, the legislative hangover from the Communist era, and an early power base for the enemies of reform.

He replaced Yegor Gaidar, the young monetarist beloved of the West, as Prime Minister. Yeltsin was unable to hide the pain of the moment, standing with bowed head at the podium after he had given in, and an-nouncing through his spokesman that he and Gaidar had been "one heart and one soul". If the harid account of the President's ousted bodyguard, Alexander Korzakov, is . to be believed, Yeltsin's drink problem began – or rather resurfaced – at this time.

Chemomyrdin arrived in office as the incarnation of all that the Yeltsin team stood against. He wanted to go slow where the reformers sought to move fast, favoured the role of the state where they elevated the market, and called for the loosening of monetary policy while they saw resulting inflation as the greatest threat to prosperity.

The West has become far more jaundiced about the chances of reforms making rapid headway in Russia than it was then. As a Moscow correspondent when Chernomyrdin arrived in office, I still remember our dismay at the first public glimpse of the new premier, still dazed after his leap from deciding the fate of oil subsidies one minute to heading the government the next. Chancellor Kohl, arriving that day to deliver one of his periodic pep-talks and encourage German investment, was only told as he was flying over the Baltic States that he was to be met by Chernomyrdin, not Gaidar.

Instead of the podgy young reformer with eager, eccentric English, and a fascination for the free market, there stood on the tarmac a sombre figure in a navy-blue raincoat - the traditional outdoors uniform of the nomenklatura. The new PM looked like a cross between Mikhail Gorbachev and Helmut Kohl. But his style was pure Homo sovieticus, and there was something strangely familiar about his habit of delivering promising starts to sentences, only for their reformism to evaporate in the second. "I am for the market, but not for the bazaar" was his first soundbite. His first act was to try and re-impose price controls, a move defeated by Yeltsin's reformist economic adviser Boris Fyodorov.



ANNE MCELVOY

I still remember our dismay at the first public glimpse of the new premier - a sombre figure in a navy-blue raincoat

Chernomyrdin was - and still is - a representative of the pragmatic if limited mentality of the "red managers" who really kent the Soviet Union running in its terminal phase. A recent interview with the Financial Times exhibits his continuing pride in this era: "I transformed the government industry into a company and I myself... was the first to do this in the [Soviet] Union, I understood even then that we had reached a dead end." Hauling Gazprom out of the claws of the dying Soviet state created one of the world's largest companies. Cher-nomyrdin clearly believes that he is skilled at market economics. But running a monopoly in an essential commodity, whose gargantuan size guarantees it a major in-ternational standing, hardly counts as experience of the cut and thrust of capitalism.

Indeed, his attachment to his former contacts (radical reformers nickname him the minister for Gazprom) linked him to several of the business and banking oligarchs who are a more powerful force in Russia than the politicians. Their empires flourished under his premiership. For a man who believed in the market, not the bazaar, he presided over the greatest national cut-price asset sale of the century - with profits flooding into western bank accounts, not back into the impoverished Russian tax system.

It is hardly surprising then, that many pro-free market Western analysts are concluding that the revival of Chernomyrdin is a disaster, since he was responsible for many of the problems to start with. But they are unable to suggest a politically valid alternative. Chernomyrdin is no fool. He is keenly aware that he can only prevent a worse decline in Russia – and bolster his own chance of replacing Yeltsin in the Kreunlin in two years' time - if he manages to collect some tax revenue from the country's powerful companies, and clamp down on their habit of salting away profits in banks outside the country. In other words, he needs to pick a fight with the very people who are supporting him now.

Watching Boris Berzovsky, the most prominent of the business tsars, telling Newsnight that Chernomyrdin would be good for the country - and proceeding to mix up the words "country" and "company" several times - did not inspire confidence.

But my hunch is that Chernomyrdin has learned more in the last six years than his detractors give him credit for He has appointed as deputy prime minister Boris Fyodorov, the same man who defeated him over price controls in 1993. He also knows that Russian business has little interest in a fully-fledged Communist revival, let alone a Communist in the Kremlin. The red managers who rose to political, as well as economic, prominence under Mikhail



The new image of Russia: Victor Chernomyrdin may not be the best thing for the country, but he is certainly not the worst

ideological diehards, like the present Com- was bound up with the Communist Party munist leader; Gennady Zyuganov, who have substituted nationalist chauvinism for like Boris Yeltsin, his priority is to keep Marxist-Leninism. Zyuganov tried to scupper the peace deal that brought an end to the pointless, degrading and expensive war in Chechnya, after Chernomyrdin had helped broker an armistice.

"They destroyed everything; they destroyed the best people; they destroyed the peasants," Chernomyrdin has said of the Communists, a rather cynical outcry for owed to workers (and a cause taken up by believes that? Only Chernomyrdin."

of the Soviet Union. But it does mean that, Zyuganov and his ally, the unhinged Vladimir Zhirinovsky, out of power by outwitting them in his de facto running of the country. If he is not the best thing that could

happen to Russia, he is far from the worst. Neither, unlike his extremist challengers, is he economically illiterate. He knows that he must find some way to pay back-wages

Gorbachev's perestroika are scathing about someone whose entire career before 1991 the Communists), while avoiding a slide into hyper-inflation and a slump in growth. It is the most difficult quandary any politician sistence that this mess is, as he insists "absolutely manageable".

Boris Nemtsov, the young reformer who left the Kremlin in despair last week, summarises the gamble thus: "Chernomyrdin has some chance of winning presidential elections, if the economic and social situations improves drastically. But then, who

#### **RIGHT** OF REPLY

ANDREW **PAKES** 

The President of the National Union of Students responds to Ken Livingstone's accusation that they are backtracking on racism

READING KEN Livingstone's article in the Indy last Wednesday I was struck by one overwhelming thought: how sad it is that an individual who obviously has such a positive record in anti-racism work can get things (on occasion) so

wrong.
I wholeheartedly agree with Ken's assertion that political correctness is a reactionary American import used by the right as a rallying call for all those opposed to the advances made in recent years by women, black and Asian communities, people with disabilities and lesbians, gays and bisexuals.

However, our Ken, does "his" cause no good when he attacks the National Union of Students for its role in combating the threat of Islamic extremists on campus, Has Ken constructed a league table of those who face prejudice and discrimination and prioritised which offenders most deserve our contempt and attention?

NUS has never claimed the small but dangerous groups of Islamic extremists are the main cause of racism, but they are a distinct and real threat to the welfare and safety of many students. As a gay male, I myself, have been subjected to some of their bile and hatred.

Racism is a series of diverse and often complex prejudices between and within different groups in "multi-cultural" Britaio. This year's NUS Conference took an overwhelming vote to establish a Black Students Officer, while in July, Neville Lawrence addressed our annual Student Convention.

The student movement remains committed to fighting racism in all its forms, and I am not alone in finding Ken's belief - that challenging Islamic extremism on campus is not really fighting racism quite bizarre

# The changing face of old age

MANY CHANGES will be necessary if the Government is to hilfil its pledge to the electorate to reform welfare so that it works with, rather than against, the grain of human nature. But pensions are the big issue. Reform here attempts to lay down the basis on which future income begins to be determined only after 40 years or so. Such a reform is not for those who seek only short-term fixes. There are, for example, still 700,000 pensioners today drawing entitlement from the 1925

Pension provision has a profound impact on work incentives, as well as on the propensity to save. In taking an overall view, this book has important lessons for today's debate, provided that the reader is willing to push through the ideological framework which John Macnicol seeks to impose on the story he seeks to tell.

His book kicks off with an introduction which hardly links to the rest there could be other; more substantial.



TUESDAY POEM

TO THE LONDONERS

FROM 'IN 1940' BY ANNA AKHMATOVA, TRANSLATED BY RICHARD MCKANE

Time is writing Shakespeare's twenty-fourth drama,

with a clear, dispassionate hand,

and for us, the partakers of this menacing feast,

it is better to read Hamlet, Julius Caesar or King Lear

by the molten lead river.

Better for us today to accompany the little dove Juliet

to the grave with torches and singing.

better to look through the window at Macbeth

and tremble with the hired murderer,

but not this, not this, not this.

this even we aren't capable of reading.

Our poems this week come from 'Poetry of the Second World War: an

international anthology', edited by Desmond Graham (Pimlico, £10)

#### TUESDAY BOOK

THE POLITICS OF RETIREMENT IN BRITAIN, 1878-1948 BY JOHN MACNICOL, CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS, £45

of the volume, the structure of which the author tries to fit into the neat little boxes of class and gender. Fortunately, the story to be told is so good that it keeps breaking out from the limited confines the author is intent to

place upon it. Here is one example of the slant in much of Macricol's text. On too many occasions, we learn that the wicked Tories would only countenance welfare reform provided it was financed on a basis of national insurance. The working class, in other words, would pay for its own reforms. There is no hint that

reasons for such an approach. Paying directly for benefits may affect the be-

baviour of the recipient, for example. A further difficulty with this approach comes when the author moves away from the interwar years, dominated by the Tories, and on to the programme of postwar reconstruction. Clement Attiee accepted the insurance principle not because he was a crypto Tory - nothing could be farther from the truth. He did so because he believed that a welfare system which people believed they owned was one which might not only survive longer, but would play its own part in building a new socialist common

It is true that Lord Beveridge drove the insurance principle into a financial cul-de-sac by insisting on flat-rate contributions for flat-rate benefits. But both Beveridge and Attlee mitigated the regressive nature of this na-tional insurance poll tax by aiming to put the taxpayer's contribution at two-thirds of the welfare bill. An analysis of this Exchequer contribution. adding a progressive element to a system which allowed practically every worker to be a full member of the insurance scheme, does not feature in

Where the book is good is in the section desling with the reform of the Poor Law, and the advent of old age pensions. And it is extentionally good in the chapter dealing with the interwar studies of poverty.

Better than any other study I have read, Macnicol shows how the reform of the Poor Law at the turn of the century was not simply about easing the the adult male. I had not appreciated



Poverty still affects too many old people

lot of the aged poor, whose only offence how a similar exercise operated was that they no longer had the strength to drag themselves to work should any employer want them. Help for the aged opened up the opportu-nity for a tougher regime for those of working age, and this too was a goal for most reformers who advocated the introduction of state pensions.

Macnicol excels, adding much to public knowledge, and hopefully to the political debate, in his analysis of what was read from the interwar poverty studies. He shows how the aged poor were very largely written out of these studies by those who wrote up the surveys, despite what the raw data indicated.

I had long been aware of bow Rowntree's arbitrary "poverty line" had underestimated the costs of women and children, as compared to

against the elderly. Nor did I understand how a whole stream of survey findings were, in effect, doctored so as to emphasise the poverty of the working family

This part of the book will pay hand-some dividends once Parliament begins to debate the Government's proposals for long-term pension reform. No government has been able to contemplate reforms benefiting pensioners in 40 years time without making thankfully, major concessions to today's pensioners. John Macnicol's book will provide much help to those wishing to keep the Government on

The reviewer is MP for Birkenhead and was until recently minister with responsibility for welfare reform

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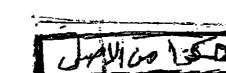
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# Labour says no to extra cold weather **payments**

Ministers have refused to adjust cold-weather payments to pensioners to allow for the windchill factor, saying those on low incomes already have extra help to heat their homes. But Anthony Bevins says they have laid themselves open to accusations of hypocrisy.

A government decision to reject additional cash for some of the poorest pensioners to help them get through the winter with adequate heating was roundly criticised by MPs of all parties vesterday.

Following a review of policy, to see if the wind-chill factor should be taken into account when making the £8.50 coldweather payments - currently geared to seven days at 0C - the social security minister John Denham said yesterday that there would have been a real danger that many people in less

windy areas would have lost out. He said that with a fixed limit to government spending, additional benefits for some would have meant loss for others.

But Audrey Wise, the Labour MP who led a campaign against the Tory government for wind-chill to be taken into account, told BBC Radio 4's World at One programme yesterday that the reference to budget restraint was meaningless. "Nobody knows what the expenditure actually will be this winter, or any winter," she said. "These payments are by nature emergency payments."

For the Conservatives, lain Duncan Smith said that Harriet Harman, the Secretary of State for Social Security, was guilty of breathtaking hypocrisy - an identical charge to the one delivered by Margaret Ewing, of the Scottish Nationalist Party.

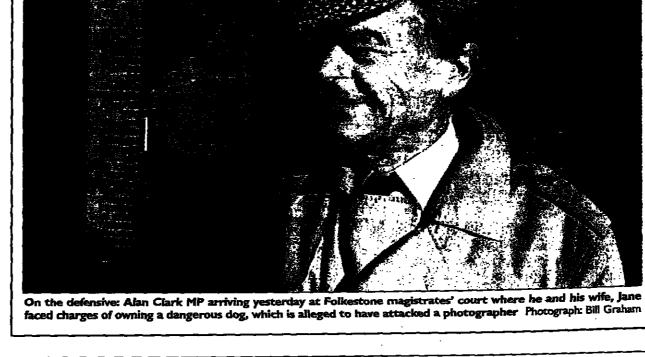
"In Opposition," Mr Duncan Smith said, "Harriet Harman repeatedly tried to score political points over the plight of the elderly during the winter. She raised fears and expectations. In government, [she] has changed her tune."

David Rendel, the Liberal Democrat spokesman, pointed out that a dozen MPs who were now government ministers had been among 150 Labour MPs who had signed Ms Wise's Commons motion calling for wind-chill action last November.

"It is a false economy to scrimp and save over keeping Britain's pensioners warm during the winter," he said. "The refusal to boost cold weather payments will force elderly people into hospitals, placing an additional drain on already-scarce heath service funds."

Mr Denham said that since May, the Government had taken a number of measures to belp people on low incomes to heat their homes this winter. It had cut value-added tax on domestic fuel and power bills, it had abolished the gas levy, and falling fuel prices would amount, on average, to the equivalent of three cold-weather payments for old people

"No one will be worse-off this winter," he said, "and most ... will be better off, better able to beat their homes this winter because of the measures we have taken."



#### Clark's dog gets its day in court

Conservative MP Alan Clark offered a BBC TV photographer money to drop a court case against him after he had allegedly been bitten by the MP's rottweiler dog, a court was told yesterday. But although Mr Clark also asked BBC bosses to put pressure on him, Peter Powell refused to back down, it was said.

Mr Clark and his wife Jane appeared at Folkestone magistrates' court, in Kent, charged with owning a dangerous dog. Mr Powell said the rottweiler tried to bite his face and throat, but ended up tearing skin off his arm as he protected himself. Prosecutors told the court they were seeking an order for the dog to be properly

controlled, not destroyed. The incident is alleged to have taken place at Mr Clark's home, Saltwood Castle in Kent, as a television crew arrived to interview him after he had secured his nomination as the candidate for Kensington and Chelsea, in west London - a seat he subsequently won at the general election.

In court, Mr Clark denied ever offering to give Mr Powell money to drop the case. He accepted that one of his two rottweillers may have been "out of control" for about three minutes but insisted it was not the dog stated in the charge that had bitten Mr Powell.

The case continues.

#### Tories face more bloodletting over policy on Europe

The Conservative leadership put itself on a collision course with the party's Euro-rebels yesterday, when Michael Howard, shadow foreign secretary, condemned

out of hand. Anthony Bevins, Political editor, reports on the first big test of Tory

the Amsterdam treaty

The latest European treaty, signed by Tony Blair at Amsterdam soon after he became Prime Minister, marks "an unacceptable step towards an integrated federal superstate," Mr Howard warned yester-

"Amsterdam is a bad treaty - it is bad for Britain and bad for Europe," he said.

But with the treaty's Commons second reading scheduled for 12 November, Kenneth Clarke, the former chancellor of the exchequer and one of the leaders of the Tories' pro-European party grouping, has already made it clear that the leadership would be foolish to go to the wall over Amsterdam.

Mr Clarke said: "The Amsterdam treaty is a fair old mouse of a treaty.

"Like most European treaties, it has some good bits and some less good, but overall it's a balanced document. It simply does not involve some fundamental transfer of power to Brussels."

So far William Hague, the leader of the Conservative Party, has given his Euro-rebels a free hand only to oppose the leadership line on the single cur-

If a three-line whip is put on the Amsterdam treaty vote in the Commons, Mr Clarke and others could be expected to vote against the Conservatives' newly hardened Euro-sceptic line providing a measure of respec-

Mr Hague said in a Daily Telegraph article on the single currency yesterday: "A small minority of Conservatives are unhappy with the party's agreed policy. "It is a perfectly honourable position and they will have a free vote if the issue ever comes before Parliament.

"But I will not allow anyone to hold our party to ran-

ian Taylor, the only rebel so far to have resigned from the Opposition front bench, told BBC Radio 5 Live: "I would say we are about 30 out of 165. That's not a small mi-

Any backbench Tory revolt on Amsterdam could provide the first test of numbers - excluding the hidden force of pro-Europeans within the shadabinet and the front-bench team in general. The Independent under-

stands that there are at least 36 hard-core rebels, although but Conservative Mainstream, the umbrella organisation under which the rebels will fight, said yesterday that it would not be publishing any list of MPs who

But Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said on the BBC radio Today programme that this week's events could lead to a full-scale Tory split - with MPs defecting in significant numbers. He said it would be like the

move by Labour MPs, in 1981, to leave and create a distinct and separate Social Democratic

The issue of Europe would lead to a reshaping of the British political landscape and the parallels to what happened in the Labour Party in the 1980s is compelling," Mr Ashdown said.

"Then, what started as a faction developed into an actual split of the party, eventually resulting in the formation of the

"The Tory party, in long term, needs to go through that catharsis and then come back to





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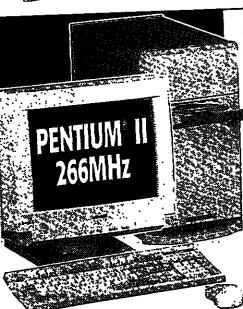
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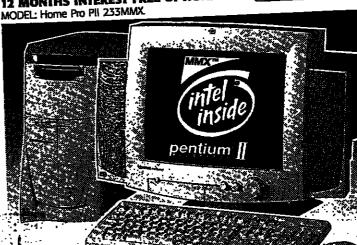


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After years in the doldrums, the italian cinema has something to shout about - a new Wave of film comedies from Tuscany. They are doing good business at the box-office, winning the odd festival prize and drafting new talent into a struggling industry. But are they any good? Andrew Gumbel went to find out.

Two years ago, Leonardo Piergets a look-in. accioni was just another forgettable "new talent" in an lesser extent, a stream of new Italian cinema industry that had long since lost its way. His first film, I Laureati, came and ful. First, because they are the went virtually unnoticed by product of genuinely new talent public or critics. His second, Il and second, because they prove, Ciclone, seemed set for a sim-

happened. The few urban cinemas where the film was Cinecitrà. screened started seeing their audiences come back for a second are the films really like? Ovosofilm hung on in there. A few pomanners that, it was said, was as frothy as it was refreshing. Within a few months, Pieraccioni's slight romantic tale about a group of beautiful flamenco dancers stranded in the able Livorno) certainly is not. Tuscan countryside had turned into an offbeat hit - taking the sort of box-office money (£25m) usually reserved for or Night On Earth (both by Jar-Hollywood blockbusters.

latest offering, Fuochi d'Anificio, was given a release to match its commercial promise; showings in every multiplex and big to have become a victim of his screen in the country, T-shirts, CD-Rom tie-ins, Internet sites - in short, the works. By happy coincidence, it has appeared at ing the theme of a simputico the same time as another keenly awaited Tuscan film, Ovosodo, Paolo Virzi's comic portrait of ravishing women - is, by comof working-class life in Livorno, which was a hit at the recent Venice Festival, Add to these a forthcoming new film by Roberto Benigni, the eccentric Tuscan comic best known abroad for his work with the American director Jim Jarmusch, and you have the makings of a Tuscan cinematic renaissance. Or at least that is how the Italian papers are heralding it.

The reality is a little more complicated. At least part of the media's enthusiasm comes from the fact that the Italian cinema has been languishing for longer than anyone cares to remember. The country that produced Bicycle Thieves, The Leopard and La Dolce Vita in the first two decades after the Second World War ran out of cinematic inspiration sometime in the early 1970s and has been struggling ever since to recover it.

The roll-call of recent Italian cinema sounds like an eerie echo of an earlier age - names such as Gassman, Tognazzi and De Sica that unfortunately (for audiences) belong to the spoiled

children of famous fathers and underline the extent to which the industry has turned into a self-serving nepotistic clique.

New talent tends to be squeezed out, either because all the production resources have already gone to the pet projects of the privileged few, or because there is no space for them in cinemas filled to bursting with American blockbusters. Distribution in Italy is the virtual monopoly of one company, Cecchi Gori, which believes in saturation-bombing its audiences with titles likely to pull in the crowds. Quirky new work from Italian directors barely

The Tuscan films (and, to a titles from Naples) thus give at least two reasons to be cheerwith their strong regional flavour, that there is life beyond But then something strange the stagnant world of Rome and its once-fabled studios at

But what, beyond the hype, or even a third time. Instead of do is almost certainly the best closing after a few weeks, the of the recent bunch, a comingof-age story told with a verve lite notices in the newspapers and visual flair reminiscent of suddenly turned into a torrent Truffaut. The milestones of the of public praise for a comedy of plot (odd family, offbeat friends, the frantic adolescent search for love, the hard reality of adulthood) might be a bit weary, but the setting (the unfashionable side of unfashion-

Benigni is an undeniable comic phenomenon, as anyone who has seen Down By Law musch) would readily ac-This month, Pieraccioni's knowledge, but his strengths as a performer far outweigh his indifferent talent for directing.

As for Pieraccioni, he seems own success. Il Ciclone was charming and unpretentious, but Fuochi d'Artificio - repristhirty-something trying to navigate his way through a crowd mon consent, heavy-handed and relentlessly mediocre.

The fact that such a film should be promoted so heavily points less to a cinematic revival than to a continuation of the long-standing crisis: the crisis of an industry that occasionally takes commercial gambles, but never artistic ones.

It is surely significant that the few genuinely profound, interesting Italian films of the 1990s (such as Gianni D'Amelio's II Ladro dei Bambini, which won second prize at Cannes in 1992) have been so poorly marketed that they have barely been seen abroad at all. Italy's one genuinely independent auteur, Nanni Moretti (who made another Cannes success, Dear Diary), only survives by producing and distributing his work himself.

This state of affairs is unlikely to change with the present Tuscan revival. Pieraccioni and Virzi might be a breath of fresh air, but Rossellini and De Sica they are not - nor are they ever likely to be in the prevailing atmosphere of stifling conformity.





(above) Bicycle Thieves (1948) - a tradition celebrated (left) in Cinema Paradiso (1989). But stifling conformity in the film industry means the new generation have little chance of producing a new Fellini or de Cica Photographs: Kobal



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#### **Boom time for** European films

Cinema admissions are booming all over Europe, in the best year for decades. And locally made films are gaining some of the benefits.

In Germany, the Federal Film Board (FFA) said it expected a total of 140 million cinema visits by Germans by the end of the year - more than in any year in the 1990s. Box offices sold 102.8 million tickets in the first nine months of the year, up by about five million, or 5 per cent, from the same period last year. The market share of German films hit a record 17 per cent.

According to the firm Mediavision, ticket sales in France were up 6 per cent for the first three quarters of the year. This has been an especially good year for local films, with their market share rising to 40 per cent.

In Britain, figures from the Cinema Advertising Association (CAA) revealed the highest monthly UK cinema ticket sales since 1971. Total ad-

missions for January-July 1997 stand at 74.8 million -4 per cent up on the same period in 1996. CAA are projecting the number of admissions for the year 1997 to total 134 million, against 123 million for 1996. This is the highest figure for admissions since 1974. Admissions for September 1997 saw an increase of 49 per cent on the same month in 1996. The market share of local films is difficult to gauge because the "British film" is not easy to de-

In Italy in 1996, the last year for which figures are available, more than 95 million cinema tickets were sold. Of these, 23.5 per cent were for Italian films. The consumption of local films is increasing as of April this year, attendance of Italian films was up an annual 26.1 per cent, while US films saw a shapp of 23 per cent over

the same period.

**49** 

#### **Threatened** auditor saved taxpayer £4m

A university admissions fraud detection unit whose £175,000 annual government funding is under threat saved £4m in false student award claims last year.

The verification unit at the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service is held up as a shining example of successful fraud-busting, in an Audit Commission report.

However, a Department for Education and Employment spokeswoman said yesterday that the department was still considering whether to maintain the annual grant.

The unit, employing three staff, uses a computer system to analyse thousands of university application forms. Last year it slashed the fraud detected in student awards to £0.9m, from £4.9m the previous year.

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## First Lady makes plea for Ulster peace

America's First Lady, Hillary Clinton, arrived in Belfast yesterday to stress the continuing interest of the United States in the Northern Ireland peace

She delivered a peace lecture emphasising the need for compromise in political negotiations and reconciliation in community relations, receiving a warm welcome during her one-day visit.

She declared: "Be assured the United States is your partner in the long haul to peace." She had earlier said in Dublin: "My husband remains personally committed to this

risks to make peace happen." The occasion was seen as reaffirmation of the direct United States involvement in the peace process and political developments. The Stor-



ing chaired by former US senator George Mitchell, and President Clinton regularly voices his interest in the North-

YOUR LOCAL SPECIALIST

Promotion Period runs from 26th October to 24th December 1997

mont multi-party talks are be- ern Ireland question. While lobbying in America was once prerogative of Irish nationalist politicians, the Clinton ad-

ministration has now established contacts with almost all seen as the almost exclusive points of the political compass. Mrs Clinton said of the

talks: "The world is watching

Hillary Clinton displaying a teapot given to her by the late peace campaigner Joyce McCartan

Photograph: Reuters

to see whether they will be able to end a generation of senseless killing and forge a lasting peace. When the people want peace it is the obligation of political leaders to find the common ground where it can

"That requires compromise and reconciliation. That involves postponing or even giving up one's cherished ideals in the belief that others will do the same to end the conflict and build a better future."

Sinn Fein welcomed Mrs Clinton's words as "a positive and useful contribution to the peace process".

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- David McKittrick

# French truckers set to strike

Last-ditch talks aimed at avoiding a strike by French lorry drivers resumed in Paris yesterday as British hauliers braced themselves for repetition of the continental chaos caused by striking drivers last November. Negotiations between drivers and employers had broken down "amid considerable acrimony" according to the Freight Transport Association, but were set to begin again at 4pm British time. However, the Road Haulage Association, representing British firms, said they had been told by French unions that the strike was "90 per cent certain" to go ahead. The drivers are threatening to block ports, borders and 40 motorway points from 10pm tomorrow for an "indefinite period" if their demands for a 7 per cent pay rise are not met. They are also demanding a guaranteed salary of about £1,000 for 200 hours of work a month. \_\_ Randeep Ramesh

#### A month of sun and frost

Britain had its sunniest October in 38 years, weather experts said yesterday. There were an average 130 hours of sunshine - 30 per cent above the average - while the South-east saw 50 per cent more sunshine than normal. But temperatures fluctuated sharply, from 26C (79F) in Essex on 1 October to -8C at the end of the month in Buckinghamshire and Northumberland. Unusually severe night frosts brought temperatures 14C lower than average for the time of year. Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and the South Midlands recorded the coldest October night temperatures since 1931. Forecasters expect the weather to remain settled until Tuesday.

#### Campaigners attack mine

Activists opposed to opencast mining caused tens of thousands of pounds worth of damage to machinery at an opencast site yesterday. Police said 300 campaigners attacked plant equipment near Tibshelf, Derbyshire, after arriving in a convoy of vehicles at 6am. However, no arrests were made. Police believe the protesters travelled from South Yorkshire, although campaigners said they assembled from across Britain. The site, between Alfreton and Chesterfield, is owned by HJ Banks, the second-largest opencasting company in Britain. A spokesman for the pressure group No Opencast, which aims to highlight alleged environmental blight, refused to comment on any damage yesterday.

#### Teachers reject speedy sackings for incompetence

The Government came under fire from teachers' leaders yesterday after extending recommendations made by unions and employers for a fast-track dismissal procedure

for incompetent teachers. The school standards minister. Stephen Byers, approved recommendations that will see staff removed within just four weeks in extreme cases, and otherwise within two terms.

However, the Government is extending the new procedure to heads and on which the Government deputies, and is stressing that long-term sickness will be no defence against dismissal. "There will be zero tolerance the National Association of of delays," Mr Byers said.

cases where teachers have remained on the payroll for as long as five years.

Details of the new procedures will be sent to schools and local education authorities within 14 days.

The Government's apparent sense of urgency yesterday drew criticism from teaching unions. Peter Smith, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, insisted the problem of incompetent teachers was "relatively small scale".

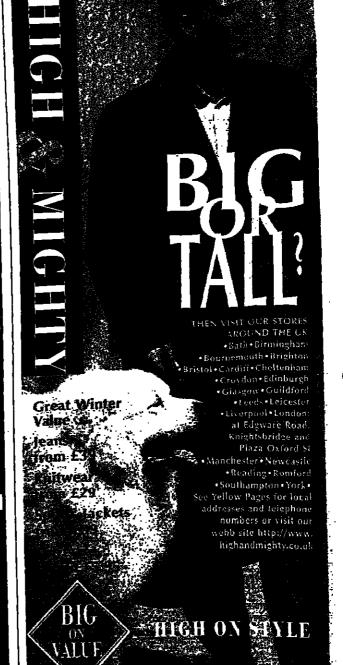
"By all means let's deal with it quickly, but to suggest that there is a crisis out there needs to act within 14 days is nonsensical," he said.

Nigel de Gruchy, leader of Schoolmasters - Union of Women Teachers, has written have told the Government of to Mr Byers expressing a

Lucy Ward

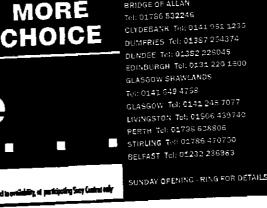






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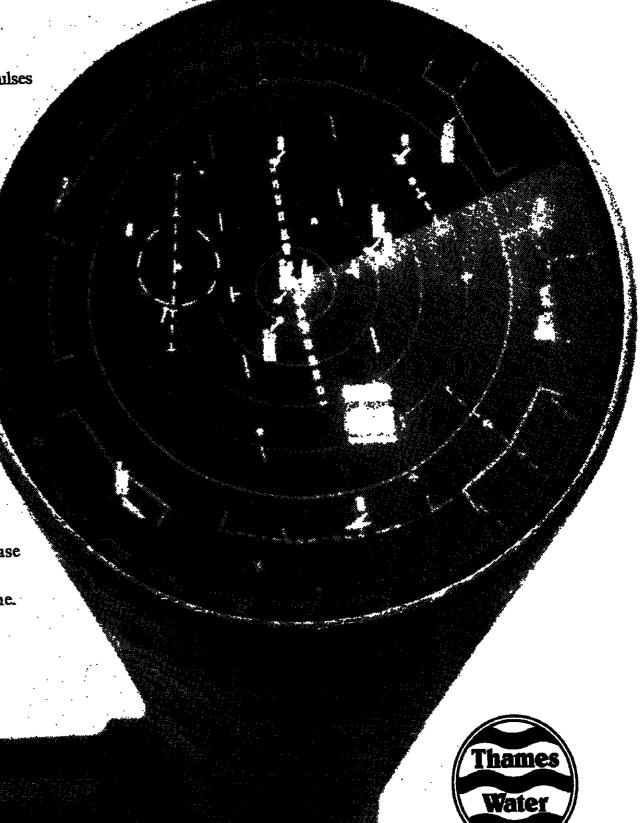
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A flow of good ideas.

#### NAZI TOLL

An estimated 100,000 homosexual men were arrested by Nazis, and about 50,000 jailed of which 5,000 to 15,000 concentration camps.

■ About 9,000

homosexuals believed to have died in camps. Six million Jews and 500,000 gypsies perished. ● The German

government refuses to pay compensation to homosexuals, who were considered "criminals" until 1969.

omosexual prisoners in acsenhausen: they were rced to wear pink iangular patches known Rosa Winkels'





# Gay activists press for German apology

Gay-rights activists have written to the German Chancellor asking for compensation and an official apology for the gay community's sufferings during the Holocaust. Joson Bennetto, Crime Correspondent, reports the Nazis' forgotten victims' struggle to gain recognition and reparation.

It was early morning when Friedrich-Paul von Groszheim was dragged from his bed by the Gestapo. He was arrested in the port of Lübeck with with 230 other suspected homosexuals in 1937. "They beat us to a pulp," he recalls. "I couldn't lie down ... my whole back [was] bloody. You were beaten until you finally named names."

He was eventually offered the Nazi "alternative" of castration or concentration camp. He chose castration, a decision which probably saved his life.

Paul Gerhard Vogel, who was also arrested on charges of homosexuality, was not given that option. Sentenced to seven years in

Emsiand penal camp, he was made to work up to 15 hours a day, seven days a week. "For half a year, I was kept bent over," he says. "My hands

were ned to my ankles." He was forced to go to the toilet in his pants, and to lick food from the floor. Several of the guards sexually abused and beat the homosexual prisoners.

Mr Vogel was later transferred to Nazi-occupied Norway to work in freezing conditions, clearing snow in the far north. He was given shoes made of wood, paper and wire. To keep about the Holocaust have igwarm he had to stuff three lay- nored the plight of homosexuers of newspapers under his als and at the failure of the

ler, head of the SS, police stepped up raids on gay meeting places.

Assisted by informers, arrests spiralled. Accusations of homosexuality were also used against suspected political opponents of the Nazis.

Once imprisoned and convicted of homosexuality the inmates, who were known as "175ers" and often had a pink triangular patch, known as a "Rosa Winkel", sown to their jackets, often endured savage treatment by prison guards.

Some homosexuals were victims of medical experiments, including castration.

Operations to "convert" men to heterosexuality by inserting hormone capsules were carried out, sometimes with fatal results.

In spite of their sufferings. most homosexual concentration-camp prisoners were not acknowledged as victims of Nazi persecution after the war and compensation was refused. Under the Allied military

government of Germany, some gay men were forced to serve out jail sentence regardless of time spent in concentration camps, although that period is deducted from their pension entitlement. Rule 175 remained in effect in West Germany until 1969 and in 1957 the Supreme Court ruled that homosexuals arrested by the Nazis were common criminals and therefore legitimately incar-

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cerated. Gay-rights groups are now clamouring for the German government to acknowledge the past atrocities, pay compensation and establish a monument to remember the Nazis' homosexual victims at a planned Holocaust, memorial next to the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin. They are angry that most of the plethora of books



Peter Tatchell: organiser of a day of remembrance in London tomorrow Photograph: David Sandison

vived the war.

about 100,000 gay men arrested in Germany and Austria between 1933 and 1945.

Some 50,000 were jailed, mostly in regular prisons, while up to about 15,000 were sent to concentration camps. It is not known how many of them died but one scholar believes 60 per cent - 9,000 - could have bians are believed to have been arrested or persecuted - were a target of Nazi wrath in their attempt to "purify" society and propagate a master-race.

Soon after he took office in 1933 Hitler banned all homosexual and lesbian organisations. Brown-shirted storm troopers raided homosexual institutions and the numerous gay bars and cafés that had flourished in the relative freedom of the 1920s, particularly in Berlin, Hamburg, Munich and Bremen.

vision on homosexuals was set compile "pink lists" of suslists had been kept by police since 1900.

In 1935 Paragraph 175 of the Criminal Code, dealing with homosexuals, was tightened to were carried out." penalise a broader range of lewd and lascivious" acts be-Spurred on by Heinrich Himm-

clothes. Miraculously, he sur- authorities to prosecute any of the Nazi doctors who carried These two were among out experiments on gays. A homosexual umbrella organisation is also lobbying officials in Switzerland for inclusion of gays in the new £50m fund to aid victims of the Holocaust.

The OutRage! gay-rights group has written to Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany asking for an official apology to the gay community, payment of perished. Gay men - few les- compensation similar to that awarded to Jewish survivors, and better pensions.

A spokeswoman for the Germany embassy in London said: "The whole discussion has started again and we have been asked for compensation but at present there's no special provision for homosexuals." Tomorrow OutRage! has organised a Queer Remembrance Day ceremony at the Cenotaph in London for homosexuals who died during the Second World War.

Peter Tatchell, of OutRage! In 1934 a special Gestapo di- said: "It's time the German government apologised for the up. One of its first acts was to Nazi persecution of homosexuals and paid compensation to pected homosexual men; such gay Holocaust survivors. "The story of the gay Holocaust has been suppressed by most historians and most people are unaware of the atrocities that

The story of gay Holocaust survivors is being shown in a tween men; the need to provide film, We Were Marked With a Big overriding proof of homosexu- A, for the first time in Britain al conduct was removed. tomorrow at the Freedom Bar in London at 3pm.

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chine gun, a lethal symbol of technical efficiency: Israel has delayed the latest shipment after complaints at the numbers on sale in the US civilian ma

#### Symbol of Israeli national identity

Rugged, reliable and cheap to make, the Uzi submachine gun was first manufactured in Israel in 1954. It was designed by Uzi Gal. who now lives outside Philadelphia, but, after his family fled the Nazis, was brought up in Kibbutz Yagour in Israel where he

sketched his first gun designs.

Imprisoned by the British in his early twenties, Mr Gal became, on release, the chief armourer for the local unit of the Haganah, the Jewish resistance army. He repaired weapons obtained from around the world, noting their good and bad points.

His ideas eventually turned into the Uzi. With its short barrel, limited recoil and good balance, with the magazine in the handgrip. this is essentially the weapon which is still in such demand in the US today.

Israel Defence Industry claims, however, that it has modified the gun to make it impossible to fire it automatically and given it a 10bullet magazine. Gun

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controllers say that the Uzi can easily be made automatic again and 100-round magazines are available.

From the beginning the gun was a symbol. "It was a great moment for the state of Israel," says Mr Gal. "Because never in 2,000 years had there been such a thing: a weapon that the Jewish people had made for themselves, and I designed it from the ground up."

Uzi Gal never received a shekel in royalties for his invention though it has earned hundreds of millions of dollars for Israel Defence Industry. When his daughter fell ill and could only receive the required treatment in the US, he cashed in his pension

and moved to Pennsylvania. The claim of the Galil, the other less famous Israeli assault rifle, to total originality is not so well established. Designed by Israel Galil it is said to derive from the Finnish AK-74, which is in turn a modified version of the Soviet AK-47.

Patrick Cockburn

## Uzi spreads to America's mean streets

Israel has become involved in a bitter dispute with American gun-control advocates over the export of a civilian version of Uzi sub-machine gun to the US. Patrick Cockburn in Jerusalem reports on ti row which is pitting American politicians normally sympathetic to Israel against the Israeli defence industry.

name, identified with military prowess and technical efficiencv. But now the Uzi, first manufactured as the world's most perfect submachine gun in 1954, is becoming a symbol of a different sort, provoking deep divisions between Israel and the US. "Night and day I will expose the fact that you, the Israelis, are selling guns that will kill children . and policemen," Senator Diane Feinstein from California told the Israeli ambassador in The battle to stop the sale of

It is Israel's most famous brand

automatic and semi-automatic arms is important for gun control advocates in the US. It is also a struggle they thought they had won in 1994 when President Clinton signed the ban on assault weapons. But manufacturers were quick to circumvent the new rules. For sale in the US, the automatic firing mechanism of the Uzi was eliminated, but Senator Feinstein says it can be made automatic again in four minutes, exactly. Our experts did it".

It is not a good moment for Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, to alienate potential friends in the US. Relations are already frosty because of his failure to fulfil the Oslo accords agreed with the Palestinians. American Jews are alienated by what they see as the refusal of orthodox rabhis in Israel to accept them as fully Jewish, a chief rabbi in Jerusalem describing US Jews us "millions of lost souls".

The initial shipments of assault weapons would be of 5,000 Uzis and 2,600 Galils, another automatic rifle, but not as famous or original as the Uzi, and derived from the Soviet AK-47. Mr Netanyahu this week, after a series of meetings with his advisers, decided to demy the despatch of the Galils for 90 days. President Clinton had already put a temporary stop to the import of the Uzis by O.F. Mossberg & Sons, a well-known Connecticut gun manufacturet.

Some Israelis are astonished that so much goodwill should be risked for so little. "The sale of the Uzi and the Galil will turn

American public opinion against us," wrote Eliahu Ben Elissar, the Israeli ambassador to the US in a letter to Defence and Foreign Ministries in Jerusalem published by the daily Ha'aretz in a detailed investigation into the whole affair.

tween the state-owned Israel Detence Industry (IDI), which manufactures the Uzi and the Galil, and Israeli diplomats. Though 30 other Senators supported Diane Feinstein's campaign, the IDI thought it would blow over. They also remembered the \$200m they had made from selling the Uzi in the US before 1994. Each one cost \$50 to make in the factory in Kirvat Shmona in northern in Israel and retailed for \$900. But the manufacturers of the

Uzi understated the depth of feeling in the US. In San Francisco alone, where Senator Feinstein, who is half-Jewish, was once mayor, 5,000 people have been killed in gun-related incidents in the last three years. Nor is she alone. Senator Robert Torricelli from New Jersey, normally a stalwart of the pro-Israel lobby, said: "If there's any country in the world that should understand the problem of dangerous weapons and the damage they can do in a civil society, it is Israel."

In the last two months relations between Israel and the arms controllers has become increasingly envenomed. On 11 September, Senator Feinstein wrote a letter to Mr Netanyahu, enclosing a list of American civilians and policemen killed by the Uzi. She said it was ironic that the US sent aid and military equipment to Israel, while "Israeli arms manufacturers are selling assault weapons designed not for defence, but to kill."

Mr Netanyahu replied that the Uzi was sold primarily to law enforcement organisations in the US. But when Senator Feinstein saw Mr Ben Elissar, the Israeli ambassador in Washington, she accused the prime minister of lying. She said: "He writes that the Uzi is sold to law enforcement officials. We checked, and not a single federal or state agency uses the Uzi." She rebutted the ambassador's claim that the gun would be used mainly for hunting and target practice, saying it had neither the range or accuracy for either.

Senator Feinstein concluded by asserting that the sale of the Uzi to the US was against Jewish ethics, saying: "The Uzi is identified with Israel and Israel is Jews." Israel is not cancelling the sale, but Mr Netanyahu's decision this week to delay the shipment of the Uzis and Galils for 90 days is a sign that he recognises superior political firepower.



#### Ladies called to account as bank cuts ties with genteel tradition

It was a milestone for the ble floors. They weren't very business and rush in at lunch British women's movement and user friendly." burgh's legendary ladies, as the ledgers and the powder room closed yesterday on a refined banking tradition.

The Royal Bank of Scotland shut its only ladies' branch, after 33 years of sterling service - its customers toasting a generation of exclusive female finance with wine, nibbles and regrets at its passing.

The cost of installing the latest technology is too great to justify the separate branch, given the relatively low number of customer visits.

In future, customers - who number around 1.000 - will have from north of Dundee used to to take their chances with the unisex banking crowd on the ground floor, though acting clients include at least one no use if all you are buying is a branch supervisor Betty Johnstone will be there initially as a "meeter-greeter" to watch for her customers and to introduce them to their new tellers.

The branch opened in December 1964, an ideal imported from New Zealand by a male senior manager. With women taking more control of their fistaff in comfortable and leisurely surroundings.

"The bank's image was still very much Captain Mainwaring. where the manager wore a bowler." said RBS spokeswoman Ana Bart. "Our branches were sombre places, with metal bars at the teller and mar-

With plush carpets and soft colours at the ladies branch, silver service coffee was on offer a female staff and they could from a staff member who also looked after the flowers and the downstairs." well-used powder room.

Those awaiting service sat in very nice lady, Mrs Anderson, upholstered comfort and a and we could leave messages for courtesy phone remained in others, or if you had a heavy place until four years ago. The third and final coffee lady retired then, cutbacks saw an end also to the flowers, while the customer profile was becoming somewhat mature.

ready to go home."

MacGillivray.

Three generations of one family based in Manchester have held accounts; a woman leave her mother at the bank while shopping; and current £10 or more which, she says, is prominent figure in the London media, who remains discreetly anonymous.

Elizabeth MacGillivray from the Burnton suburb of Edinburgh, a former nursing administrator who is now "past her mid-seventies", has held her account since it opened.

"I found it a very convenient nances, this was a place where way of keeping my personal acthey could talk with female count apart from my household account," she said. "In other words, since the law gave women the chance to own some property in their own right, and not just be an appendage of their husbands, it was a very convenient way of saying what's mine is mine.

"There are ladies who are in

**Vest End Office** and Ladies Branch

The branch has closed after 33 years

# **McAleese** wins Irish presidency

Despite an unusually low solutely delighted," she said. turnout. Fianna Fail's Mary McAleese last night romped home to an easy win by a twoto-one margin in the Irish presidential election, in which former ex-singer Dana Rosemary Scallon polled surprisingly well in third place.

First count results showed Mrs McAleese with 46 per cent of the first preference votes cast in the single transferable vote poll. Fine Gael's Mary Banotti MEP secured 29 per cent. Mrs Banotti led in four middleclass south Dublin seats with first count votes up to 10 per cent ahead of Mrs McAleese. Transfers of second-prefer-



Mary McAleese: On course for 60 per cent mandate

ence votes for the lower placed candidates last night pointed to a final outcome of almost 60 per cent for Mrs McAleese and just over 40 per cent for Mrs Ban-

All sides congratulated Dona, initially a rank outsider. on confounding sceptics, first by obtaining a nomination through local councils without party backing, and then coming third nationally with support reaching over 20 per cent in some ar-

"Without a political machine and without political funding we have won a victory for ordinary people. I'm ab-

The singer turned US religious broadcaster was impressive in debates with an off-the-cuff wit and clarity of argument that belied her political inexperience. She is now giving serious consideration to a more serious political role.

Dana, with a national average 13 per cent of the vote, almost doubled the backing indicated in recent opinion polls - suggesting many voters were won over by her sharp performance in the final television debate, or were unwilling to declare their intention to support

The Left's Adi Roche concedeu defeat before lunchtime. Having led at the start of the campaign, she fell back dramatically after the subsequent nomination of Mrs McAleese, and a series of bitter attacks on her by former colleagues in her Chernobyl Children's Pro-

She finished in fourth place with barely 7 per cent, a result likely to cause soul-searching in Labour ranks where the campaign was expected to restore morale after the party's decimation in the June general election. Derek Nally, a former garda and founder of the Victim Support charity, drew 5

per cent. Barely half the eligible electorate cast their votes, compared with a 64 per cent turnout in the last presidential poll in 1990. Though heavy rain was partly to blame, many felt smear tactics deployed in the hustings, and recent scandals over payments to politicians as contributory factors.

Counting begins this morning in the referendum on relaxing cabinet confidentiality, which was also held on Thursday. Many count centres reported large numbers of spoiled votes with complaints about lack of information written on

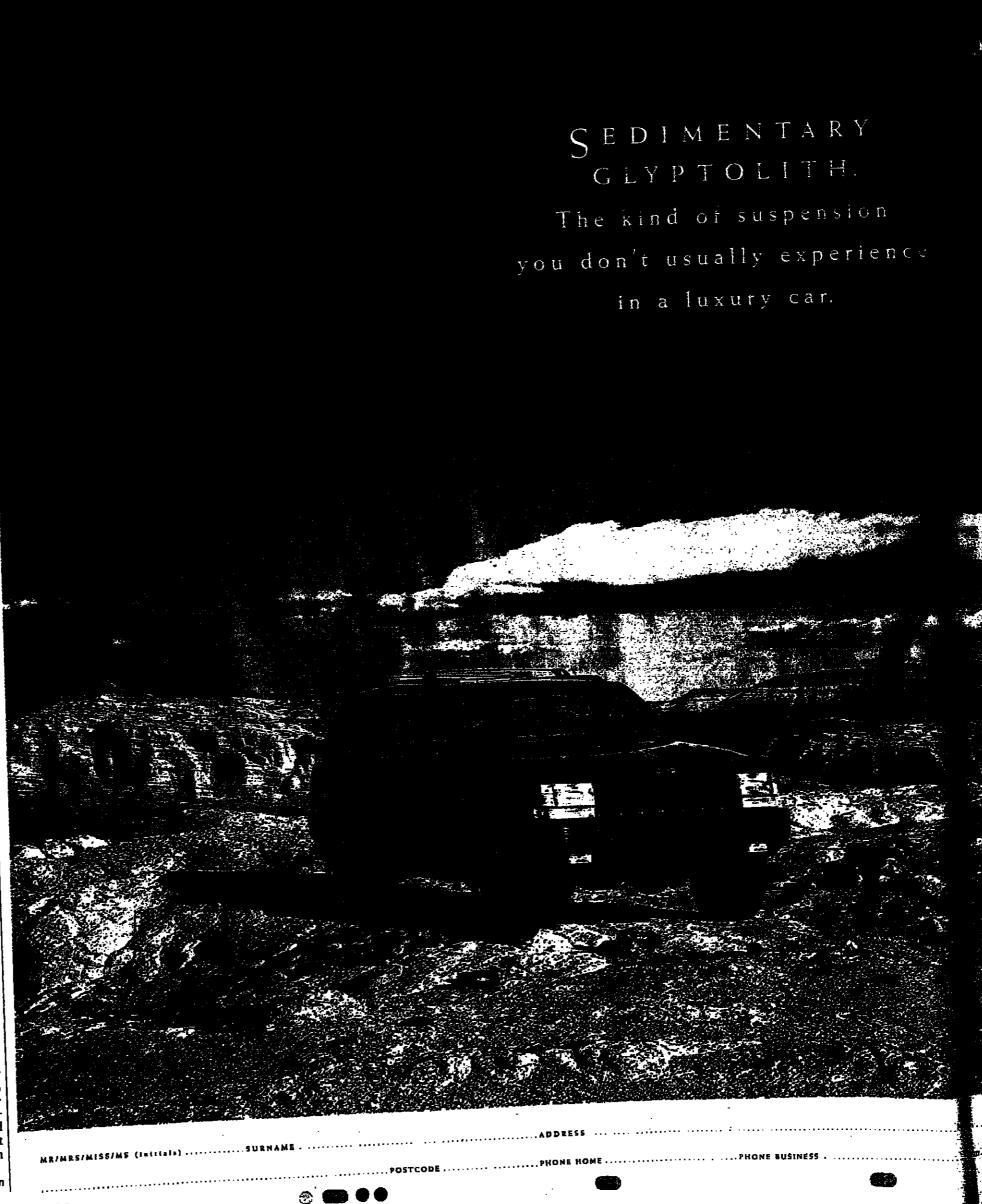
ballot papers. \_\_ Alan Murdoch, Dublin

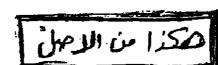


Bank transfer: A cust making a final transaction at the ladies' branch the law gave women the right to own property in their own right ... it w very convenient way saying what's mine is

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YOU'RE LOOKING AT the Hanging Rock, formed by over a million years of erosion, deep in the heart of New Mexico. Around here it's the most breathtaking suspension you'll ever see. Or it was until the Jeep Grand Cherokee Limited came along. Its sophisticated quadra coil suspension beats any sedimentary glyptolith hands down. Add to that the 8 way power adjustable soft leather seats, automatic temperature control and a 6 speaker audio system (for rock fans)





# 15/WOMEN IN THE NEWS

# Historic fight between girl boxers is a sell-out



Marie Davies and Marie Leefe: taking advantage of equal opportunity laws which have now been applied to boxing

\* 5 C 11 6

it's one of the most comfortable rides of any 4x4. But as well as luxury the Jeep Grand Cherokee Limited also packs

awesome power. Its 4 litre, 6 cylinder engine achieves 0-60 mph in under 10 seconds (13.9 in the Laredo turbo diesel).

In fact, you'll have to go a long way to find anything as rugged and spectacular as the Jeep Grand Cherokee. Like New Mexico

for instance. Prices for the Grand Cherokee range start at £26,495 on the road. JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE.

A change in the Queensbury rules has allowed an officially approved, all-female boxing tournament to take place for the first time. Petra Kendall reports

Best friends Marie Davies and Marie Leefe were last night punching their way into the record books by becoming the first women in Britain to take part in an officially approved boxing tournament.

Organisers were swamped with more than 700 requests for the £3 tickets - double the capacity of the small Dairy Sports and Social Club in Whitland, Pembrokeshire, where the bout was staged.

The two 16-year-olds launched women's amateur boxing under the unlikely ringnames of "Cheesey" and

Ms Leefe and Ms Davies were allowed to fight the bout because of a recent change in women to box. The change in amateur boxing rules to bring the sport in line with equal opportunity laws means that women can now compete in tournaments.

Both college students, the two young women trained together for more than a year for typical training day, the girls pulled out because of adverse take part in various exercises, in-

and a four-mile run. They also have three rounds of sparring per week.

Marie Leefe said: "We came down for training first, then decided that we were going to

Marie, who has won 476 rosettes for showjumping, said: "I'm not intimidated by all the attention - it's the critics more than anything, but the match will go ahead despite what they

think. "My friends love it, I think they're more excited about it than we are."

Mike "Digger" Haines, the teenagers' trainer, is confident about their ability: "I don't see anything wrong with the match," he said, "boxing is no more dangerous than any other sport.

"It's not a blood-and-guts sport, like a lot of critics make out", he added

Marie Davies' decision to enter the sport was influenced by the infamous boxer Prince Naseem Hamed. His managertrainer, Davis Brendan Ingle, the Queensberry rules allowing said: "If the girls want to box, who's to say they shouldn't? It's a democratic country.

"I wouldn't want to see women box, but it's a matter of choice", he added.

An attempt last month by two 13-year-old Midlands schoolgirls to become the first female tournament-boxers was their three-round match. On a abandoned when one of the girls publicity and criticism from the cluding 15 minutes of skipping British Medical Association.

#### WOMEN FIGHTERS IN BRITAIN

● The British Ladies Boxing Association was set up four years ago in the back room of a pub in Tooting, south Lon-

● This year the Amateur Boxing Association swept away 17 years of male tradition by allowing women to fight competi-

● Women amateurs can now compete on the same bill as men, under the same regulations, for bouts at championship

level of three two-minute rounds. Most of the association's medical officers voted against the rule changes and said that they would not attend bours. Women can only box as professionals abroad as the British Boxing Board of Control, the professionals' governing body, remains opposed on medical grounds.

● Doctors have expressed fears that blows to the breasts can lead to nodules which are difficult to distinguish from cancer. er, have boxed with and without gloves since the sport's modern inception at James Figg's amphitheatre in the early 18th century when a broken-nosed protagonist called Mrs Stokes regularly fought with male dwarves. The most famous female boxer was Barbara Buttrick,

from Hull, who was lightweight champion of the world. She learnt her trade in the fairground boxing booths of England ● The women's world welterweight champion is a Briton, Jane Couch, 28, from Fleetwood in Lancashire, who has

twice successfully defended her title in the United States

#### **Council rejects** the female touch

It was a case of having a they would not let me in because woman's touch. Sarah-Jane Brooks had that and much more. Too much more, as far as her prospective employers were concerned.

and is preparing to do so again.

Ms Brooks, who is also known as Mr William Anthony Brooks, is a hermaphrodite. And she is set to take legal action against her local council for discrimination after they rejected her application to work at a women's centre.

Deciding which sex, Sarah or William, had been a matter of mood - until recently. But, for the past 18 months, Miss Brooks has been living as a woman and decided to apply to work at the Watford Women's Centre, having had previous experience in similar jobs at centres in London and Manchester. However, the local council

disagreed. "When I turned up

they said I looked too much like a man," said Ms Brooks.

"The point is that I am both a man and a woman, and they have no right to choose which sex to judge me on. I have worked at womens' centres before and I was accepted, I don't know why they have turned me down in Watford." Ms Brooks is confident that

the council is wrong. "I know the law very well in this area and I will be taking them to court over this." But a spokesman for Wat-

ford council - who referred to Miss Brooks as a man - said: "The planning group at the Women's Centre considered this request fully. But we feel he cannot be admitted to the centre which is a focal point for the women in this town."

- Randeep Ramesh

#### Former Lib-Dem candidate to stand again in Beckenham

The Liberal Democrats yester- first female Tory whip and lost as their candidate in the Beckenham by-election caused by the resignation of disgraced former Tory MP Piers Merchant.

Ms Vetterlein, 25, a restaurant assistant manager, fought the Kent seat at the general election, when she took 9,858

The Tories have picked the former whip, Jacqui Lait, as their candidate. Ms Lait was the the affair in newspaper articles.

day named Rosemary Vetterlein her Hastings and Rye seat on

Mr Merchant, 46, who is married, spoke of his desire to shield his family and friends from "intensive and continued intrusion" when he stepped down as Beckenham MP two weeks ago after newspaper claims about a relationship with 18-year-old Anna Cox.

He subsequently admitted to

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#### Iraq holds firm to bar on **US** arms inspectors

Iraq says it will not back down from its decision to bar Americans from taking part in UN arms monitoring. Washington refuses to rule out military action. Patrick Cockburn examines the unfolding crisis.

Iraq says it is ready for military confrontation after barring two American arms inspectors from entering the country. The United States says Iraq has "made a mistake" by worsening the confrontation that has led to the United Nations Special Commission (Unscom) on Iraqi missiles and weapons of mass destruction suspending its work after six years.

Neither Iraq nor the UN Security Council show any enthusiasm for escalating the crisis, while one important option for the UN - suspending the oil-for-food programme - has apparently been ruled by the US. James Rubin, the US State Department spokesman, said the agreement under which Iraq exports \$2bn (£1.25bn) worth of oil every six months is a separate issue from the present dispute.

Meanwhile, Richard Butler, Australia's former ambassador to the UN, the head of Unscom, said he could finish his work in Iraq within a year if Baghdad resumed cooperation. He said: "From day one, Iraq dragged its feet. They can have this over with in six, nine or 12 months. Iraq believes tral Iraq or banning travel by Iraqi officials.

the US and Britain are determined to use weapons monitoring as an excuse to maintain sanctions for the foreseeable future.

In Baghdad, the ruling Baath Party newspaper said the leadership had taken the decision to bar Americans from taking part in the inspection teams after losing all hope that sanctions against the country would be lifted. "There is no other alternative before Iraq to get out of the dark tunnel of the embargo in which America put the country," said the daily Al-Thawra. Iraq has given the 10 American members of the 40-member Unscom team a week to leave the country. Baghdad has long regarded Unscom as being under effective US control.

Russia, while condemning the Iraqi move, said it opposed the use of force. Yevgeni Primyakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, said in Cairo at the conclusion of a Middle East tour: "We are against any use of force against Iraq. I speak about this because some voices appear, particularly in the United Kingdom, to be speaking about the use of force against Iraq. We strongly object to this."

Britain said on Thursday it did not rule out any option, including the possible use of force, to bring the Iraqi leadership back into line on weapons inspection. In practice, however, the UN's options are limited since missile strikes in 1993 and 1994 proved symbolic rather than effective. Other possible measures include extending the no-fly zone for Iraqi aircraft over cen-

#### IMF rescue for Indonesia

The International Monetary Fund has announced a \$23 billion emergency rescue-package - the second-largest in the fund's history - for Indonesia, with the United States and other countries preparing to provide additional billions of dollars.

The IMF itself will provide \$10bn, the World Bank \$4.5bu and the Asian Development Bank \$3.5bn for the economic bail-out, announced Michel Camdessus, IMF managing director. Another \$5 billion will come from Indonesian assets, he said.

The U.S. contribution in loans, if necessary, would amount to \$3 billion and would come from the Exchange Stabilisation Fund; the source that President Bill Clinton tapped in 1995 to rescue the Mexican economy after its currency collapsed.

#### **New US landmine solution**

Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, said the United States has a new plan to rid the world of landmines by 2010. She planned to join with William Cohen, Defense Secretary, to announce details last night. Ms Albright made the disclosure in a speech on the needs of countries attempting to establish stability after long

Last month, the Clinton administration refused to endorse a newly negotiated global treaty to ban landmines on grounds that such weapons are needed on the Korean peninsula. -AP, Washington

#### Expo '92 cover-up exposed

amid a string of scandals.

A government audit of Spain's Expo '92 - a showcase of the former ruling Socialists - has determined it lost 35 billion pesetas (\$230 million) and that the books had been cooked to show the

World's Fair was profitable. The findings of the Accounts Tribunal, reported on Friday by the state news agency EFE, brought an immediate call for a parliamentary investigation. There was no immediate reaction from the Socialists, who were ousted from power in the 1996 elections

-AP. Madrid

#### **Rush for French residency**

About 150,000 illegal immigrants to France have applied for residency under a government offer expiring on Friday. The flood of applications has surprised the left-wing government which came to power last June pledging to relax hardline immigration laws.

The Interior Ministry said it was not planning to organise massive expulsions and it hoped to convince those applicants who are turned down to return home with a financial aid-package.

#### Fraud uncovered in Bosnia

Carlos Westendorp, international peace coordinator, accused Bosnian Moslem and Croat officials on Fridayof misappropriating more than 40 million marks (\$22 million) from state budget funds.

Westendorp, the High Representative to Bosnia, said an international report revealed widespread diversion of tax revenues and customs fraud.

The investigation was conducted by the Customs and Fiscal Assistance Office (CAFAO), a European Union agency.



#### Protesters keep human rights on Jiang's agenda

The Chinese leader, Jiang Zemin, travels to Harvard today where he is likely to confront the biggest protest of his controversial - and at times combative - US tour.

Harvard University has been a haven for a number of Chinese dissidents, including Chai Ling, one of the young leaders of the 1989 student protest in Tiananmen Square. The planned demonstration, which the President of Harvard refused to ban, will be a challenge to Mr Jiang, whose ability to cope with protest has been in question through-

out the past week. On Thursday, the Chinese leader was taken into Independence Hall in Philadelphia by a back door and cancelled a walk to see the Liberty Bell nearby so as not to confront a couple of hundred demonstrators. Yesterday, he visited New York, where his tour took in the heart of US capitalism, the New York Stock Exchange. However, he was re-

ceived neither by the mayor of New York, Rudolph Giuliani, nor the governor of New York state, George Pataki.

Human rights have figured more prominently during official discussions than many anticipated. At their joint press conference on Wednesday, President Bill Clinton accused China of being "on the wrong side of history" in its intolerance of political dissent, while Mr Jiang defended the Chinese army's assault on Tiananmen Square as necessary to sustaining national

In a speech to the Asia Society, Mr Jiang referred to "democracy" as a condition for modernisation in China. The effect was outweighed, however, by his resort to the argument that "before adequate food and clothing is secured for the people, the enjoyment of other rights is out of the ques-- Mary Dejevsky, Washington

#### Diabetes affects 10 million Americans

record level in the United States, affecting more than 10 million people - a six-fold rise since 1958. An estimated 6 million more older. If you put all these factors together, may be affected without yet knowing it. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, the national agencies responsible for collecting medical data, attribute the rise to an increase in obesity, and the fact that people are living longer.
"We are fecoming a more overweight and the second second

The incidence of diabetes has reached a population," said Dr Frank Vinicor, head of the CDC's diabetes division. "We are less active and we are also getting somewhat we are seeing a chronic disease epidemic

Some experts believe that the increased consumption of soft drinks and low-fat foods, both of which have a high sugar content, are contributing factors. - Mary Dejevsky, Washington

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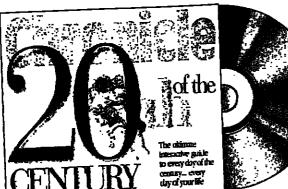
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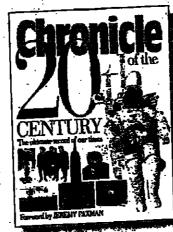


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# 17/ALGERIA'S HORRO

### **Nightmares** of torture haunt exiled witness

For four years, Inspector Abdessalam of the Algiers central police force saw his colleagues executing prisoners and watched suspects in agony as their nails were torn out under torture. Some were suffocated with acid-soaked cloth. Now in exile in Britain, he tells Robert Fisk he was lucky to escape death at the hands of his own police force.

Even in the doorway of the Sheraton hotel in Belgravia, central of prisoners in which, he says, L. yidon, Inspector Abdessalam L. Jks every bit a policeman; tall, suspicious, potentially aggressive, shaking hands with uneasy dreadful, bloody story, he does da, not far from Algiers international airport.

He joined the police in 1981 - "I wanted a respected job, I wanted to serve the people," he says - but like all his comrades began to go wrong for Abd-monstrations for democracy where broken up by the army, when police stations were attacked. He never liked the Is- nition? What are your plans? lamic Salvation Front, whose certain victory in the 1991 elections prompted the militarybacked government to cancel leave home to sleep in police sta- go, and were shot in the back.

that a well-known terrorist called Milliani Mansouri [later killed by security forces was there with his family. We didn't find them. But we surrounded the area where his two-storey house was. We fired tear gas into the house. We told the occupants over loudspeakers to give themselves up. There was no reply. So we started shooting with RPGs [rocket-propelled grenades).

"It turned out there were three children, two women and a man in there. They were all burned to death."

Abdessalam's nightmares, however, are reserved for his memories of torture - the systematic and brutal interrogation he never took part. "Sometimes the prisoners

were forced to drink acid or a

cloth was tied to their mouths courtesy. And when he tells his and acid poured over it. The torturers came from the Judiciary so with detachment, a police of- Police. They did their work in ficer making his report, just as the mechanics garage next to the be did when he was in charge of police sûreté office at Daira. I police equipment at Dar al-Bai- remember their names. One was called Baussad - be died later. They also pulled out men's beards and took out their nails. Sometimes prisoners were forced to stand next to tables with their testicles on the table in the Algerian police, things and their testicles would be beaten. They were forced to sit dessalam in 1988, when street on bottles. And all the while they would be asked questions. Who were you with? Who are your friends? Where is your ammu-

"A small number of the prisoners gave information. Some preferred to be killed. Some died under water torture. On orthe poll and ban the party. Ab- ders, those to be killed would dessalam lived in the poor Kou- be taken out of the city. There ha district of Algiers but had to they were released and told to



Western friends: America, Italy, Germany and France supplied police with equipment

tions when the police were tar- The hodies would be taken to geted by "Islamist" guerrillas. the morgue - they were not giv-

says, sipping coffee in the Sheraton's lounge. "Every day our friends were killed. We didn't know what to do. Inside the police stations, we smoked hashish - all the police were doing it to calm their nerves. We took tablets when we went out on night operations. I was a driver anything that moved. We were frightened.

When we had intelligence information, our officers would send us to a location and say: Don't bring us live prisoners -Kill! All through 1992 this happened. I saw my friends killing in cold blood, in the street, killing alleged Islamists. We did these sorties two or three times a day."

In March 1994, Inspector Abdessalam and his colleagues were sent to the "Islamist" vilgiers at five in the morning. "We were a big force, gendarmerie and police together. We surrounded the village and shooting started from everywhere by us and the guerrillas. We surrounded the place and an assault group went inside: these were the people who did the killing. When it was daylight, they brought out the bodies - about 90 of them, including three women, most killed by bullets or rocket-propelled grenudes. We lost three policemen and soldiers dead and 15 wounded."

Sidi Moussa was later to be the scene of a mass slaughter of women and children by men who were said by the govern- Benaknoun area. When we saw ment to be members of the Is- them, we'd get on the radio and lamic Armed Group (GIA). ask what we should do. And the But Abdessalam remembers voice would come back, saying:
It in Zarga best. "We went there "You have to leave the area. Misin 1904 after we had intelligence sion over!"

"We were terrorised," he en to their families. They were buried secretly."

In addition to his job as driver. Abdessalam was ordnance officer for the Algiers city police, receiving equipment from Italy. Germany and the United States. He lists the armourers matter-of-factly, as if unaware of the implications of then and my comrades shot at what he is saying: that these are the countries which supply the Algerian security forces whose cruelty is now notorious.

We got clothes, uniforms and ammunition from Italy. pump-action shot-guns and Beretta 9mm pistols - they took 15 bullets each - and from the beginning of the violence, the Italians sent us 7mm pistols. From America, we got tear gas, flak jackets and the police 'ninja' uniforms with their masks. We got our police cars from Germany and France. From the late of Sidi Moussa outside Al- end of 1992, we started sending police to France for training."

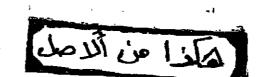
inspector Abdessalam decided to leave Algeria two years ago, fearful that his life was in danger from his own side. "I began to suspect that most of the policemen who died were being killed by the authorities because they were not collaborating enough with the government or because they were suspected of having sympathics with the opposition.

"Many of my friends in the police were killed, often at home. Sometimes the people who did the killings were followed by us and went into police barracks - mainly in the



Terrorised: Inspector Abdessalam was forced to sleep in police stations after a bomb attack by the GIA wrecked the Kouba police family residences in Algiers. Every day, police were killed. Photographs: O Abbas/Magnum





A businessman who developed a video promoting smacking children with a leather strap today abandoned his plans, say-

ing: "I was way off the mark." Philip Holdway-Davis told PA News he would "go back to the drawing-board" after a barrage of criticism from children's right groups. The 37-year-old insurance broker, living in Hamilton, New Zealand, had wanted to sell the 9-in "Safe Smacker" strap with his video, the "Safe Smack Parenting Programme\*.

It advised that a child of seven could be struck with the red leather strap up to 30 times a day, and was based on sound research, he had maintained.

But after the National Socicty for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children condemned the video for "legitimising violence against children", he admitted he had got it wrong.

"I was completely out of touch with public opinion and I'm really sorry if I've upset

Mr Holdway-Davis, originally from south London, who invested £12,000 of his own money in the product, had planned to sell it in the UK by mail order. "I have always been interested in parenting issues and I felt I had a lot of useful advice and research which could help people."

But, he agreed, "The psychology was all wrong. I was only advocating light smacking, but I can see now some people could use too

Now Mr Holdway-Davis plans to rework his material to produce programmes based on gentler forms of child control.

"Verbal warning, loss of privileges, isolation for bad behaviour, rewards for good, are all good methods which I wanted to share with people." He admitted having used a strap on his sons, aged two, five and seven, and said, "I still feel that a little smack can be right in cer-



Artistic merit: Stephen Deuchar, left, the new director of the Tate Gallery of British Art, with Jeremy Lewison, new director of collections for the Tate, at the gallery in Millbank, London, yesterday. The British Art gallery is the name which will be given to the existing Tate when the contemporary art collection is moved to the new

Tate Gallery of Modern Art at Bankside in 2000. Mr Deuchar, 40, is currently director of the Neptune Court Project at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, where he is leading its £209m redevelopment

#### Passenger anger as fares go up for Tube travellers

Ministers have not come up with any cash next year for London's ailing Tube despite promises to get people out of their cars and on to public transport. Randeep Ramesh, Transport Correspondent, explains why that means the passenger must pay.

Fare increases on London's Underground system of more than double the rate of inflation troduced. For 16- to 17-yearwere announced yesterday and met with a furious response

from passenger groups. Consumer watchdogs ac-"unacceptable and unreasonable behaviour" after it announced the increases which will see some weekly Travelcards rise by up to 8.9 per cent.

The cost of a zone-one single Underground fare – covering central London - will rise by 10p to £1.30 from next January. resulting in an increase of 30 per cent over the past three years. The bus network will also see

arge rises. One-day bus passes for the outer London zones two, three and four will go up by 10p to £2, and weekly bus passes for the same zones will increase by 6.5 per cent to £6.60.

Conscious of the fury the riss would engender, Labour

ministers ordered LT to make the announcement yesterday. rather than on Monday. Labour spin doctors consider Friday a "better news day" as people are

thinking about the weekend. The fares increase will raise more than £50m for the network next year. Tory cuts, which have yet to be reversed by Labour ministers, have left the Tue £150m short of the subsidy it expected this year.

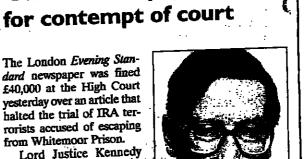
To counter suggestions that managers are milking the 1.6 million daily passengers, some inexpensive fares are being inolds, LT will offer a 30 per cent discount on adult fares for monthly bus and Tube passes.

But Sir Alan Greengross, cused London Transport of chairman of the London Regional Passengers Committee, said: London Transport are blatantly milking the captive market of central London passengers ... This sort of price rise will do nothing to encourage the shift away from the car. Indes it can only reverse it."

London Transport claimed it faced a funding cutback of £700m over the next three years and an investment backlog on the Underground of £1.2bn.

A spokesman said: "We have tried to strike a balance between keeping fares attractive to the travelling public and achieving our business need for increased revenue through a real increase

'Standard' to pay £40,000 The London Evening Standard newspaper was fined £40,000 at the High Court yesterday over an article that halted the trial of IRA terrorists accused of escaping from Whitemoor Prison. said the article, which revealed that some of the six men on trial had been convicted of terrorist crimes, was a contempt which "had a very serious effect on the administration of justice". 24hr Plug-In Mechanical Timer TO 1B Up to 96 on/off It had forced Mr Jus Maurice Kay, the trial judge at Woolwich Crown Court, "to abort a very important criminal trial in which the six defendants faced serious charges". The "negligence" had cost the paper legal costs estimated at around £50,000. First Impressions "But that, in our judg-Wallcoverings ment, is not in itself a suffiby Coloroli cient penalty," said Lord Available in various designs Justice Kennedy. "In the ed-I lam pot. itor's own words, what happened was a fiasco, a failure of blame," it said. Rorence Viviani Ceramic Wall Tiles Box of 27. Available in Grey or Peach 1500 Plus 1500 watt motor with integral stredding system and collection bag. Weight 5.1kg. Includes 16m cable. Picin, border or inset. 20cm x 15cm approx £6.99 per box



Mr David Pannick QC. representing the Attorney General, said that Standard editor Max Hastings had issued a memo to his staff about the "serious embarrassment" the article, published in January this year, had caused the newspaper. "A whole succession of experienced journalists, all of whom should have known better, bear various degrees

The opd'Americante, et al. et al.

sutsche:  $S_1 \sim_{\mathbb{T}^{n+1}} \cdot \mathbb{T}_{\mathbb{T}^{n+1}}$ maroc. ....

#### Girls scramble to go to work on an egg

Forget girl power - most girls expect to do the cooking when they grow up, according to a survey published today. More than 90 per cent of

girls aged 7 to 14 said they would be willing to do the cooking in their households. Boys say that would be fine by them - 80 per cent said they had no intention of slaving over

a stove or a microwave when they were adults. Six out of 10 boys said they did not know how to boil and egg, while more than half admitted they had never followed a recipe. But seven out of 10 girls had begun practising for domestic duties later in life by learning to cook with a recipe

they knew how to boil an egg. Unsurprisingly, both boys and girls said that women make better chefs, according to the survey, carried out by the British Egg Information Service to launch November as Crack

book, and more than half said

an Egg Month. The month-long promotion is being run to highlight the convenience and nutritional benefits of eggs and to promote the Lion symbol, which is used to mark eggs produced under higher standards of hygiene don, in Surrey, admitted four and welfare than those required

#### **Fingerprint** expert guilty of forgery

A Scotland Yard fingerprint directed by hore-A Scotland Yaru impersor to expert resorted to forgery to work, a than impersor hacklog of work, a court heard yesterday. But Peter Smith's panic-

signatures on police statements and He was quickly discovered and cost hal the him a glowing 25-year career. Sacked from his job and disting suspended as a lay preacher by heatry his church, his life was now a from to

his church, his me was harder heatre Crown Court was told t, Judge David Elfer, QC, put nuly nuly 45-year-old Smith on three years' probation and warned him he was within a whisker of

being jailed. "I can tell you what I had on my blotter - nine months," he

Because Smith did not have the courage to ask forhelp with his heavy workload he had stooped to what amounted to a "very serious interference with justice", the judge told him.

"But, I think - its - I can imagine the lonelines of your position under pressure, the judge added, "and it is that which makes me say that this is not a case where I shall send you to prison."

Smith, of Wadden, Croycounts of forgers between December 1994 and April 1995



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A bone to pick

la Dispute Corter : Atest instalme-French Theatre 1920 F.

stricken decision to put bogus kereni ei-

# She whispered, she roared, she wept, she soared ...

From the moment of La Norman's grand entrance in shimmering blue chiffon, her strong, creamy voice and sense of drama proved more than equal to Berlioz's testing song collection 'Les Nuits d'été'. Adrian Jack marvels at the diva's Barbican concert.

You'd expect a singer's solo spot to be in the middle of an orchestral concert, not at the end. But if Brahms's G minor Piano Quartet orchestrated by Schoenberg had come after the interval on Thursday evening, La Norman's fans might have left a lot of emp-

It's a long way from the artists' entrance to the Barbican platform, and Norman did not want to be seen struggling the distance. After all, she is a diva, and should simply appear, by as close to supernatural means as the Barbican's carpenters could devise. So screens were specially constructed each side to conceal the goddess until she was safely on the stage. The sight of her scarcely needed enhancing. She had tugged her hair upwards in a dark blue chiffon, so that it climaxed in a sort of exclamation mark. Her dress was simple black crèpe, draped with a diaphanous blue over-garment. The style evoked the salons and boudoirs of the early 19th century, the colours suggested the erotic nocturnal melancholy of Berlioz's six settings of Theophile Gautier, Les Nuits d'été.

Originally, Berlioz wrote the songs for different types of voice, though they are nearly always sung by a mezzo-soprano. The strain on one singer can tell, and the effect of a collection, which wasn't conceived in the first place as a cycle, can become monotonous. Although Berlioz kept his orchestration light, the music is grand, and Norman's strong, creamy voice was certainly built for grandeur. What surpassed expectation were the many ways in which she varied it. In the delicate, tripping "Villanelle", she reduced her potentially enormous sound playfully, without any sign of awkwardness. "Le spectre de la rose", rapturous and swaying, called for a more ardent, sustained line, a bigger voice, twisting upwards perilously at the end of the first verse, later hushed to a whisper against softly bubbling harp, to the words "Ce leger parfum est mon âme / Et j'arrive du paradis" ("This delicate perfume is my soul and I

At the end of the song, Norman looked upwards, smiled, opened her arms, then closed her eyes. She may scorn acting for intellectually inclined opera producers, but she can certainly do it on the concert platform. Besides, there was enough acting in her voice to make her expansive bodily gestures an optional extra. In "Sur les lagunes", she lamented her dead lover with a sepulchral resonance on the word "toujours", and softly squeezed "femme" and "elle" as if she were kissing them. The refrain of "Absence" -"Reviens, reviens, ma bien aimée" ("Come back, my beloved"), pitched cruelly high and stretched in time by Berlioz - receded in the back of her head like a hopeless appeal. It was a brilliant stroke

come from Paradise").

of expressive colouring. These details all contributed to a sustained view of each song as a whole. The only thing that left a little to be desired was the way Norman sometimes distorted the sounds of words for the sake of musical smoothness: so "la blanche tombe" in "Au cimetière" scarcely had any consogants, and in "L'ile inconnue", the repeated word "aile" sometimes began with an "ah", so much nicer to sing than "ai". Still, it's a very rare singer indeed who never resorts to that sort of self-help.

The London Symphony Orchestra under Michael Tilson Thomas supported Norman wonderfully. Only here did Tilson Thomas follow score. He conducted Berlioz's Overture Le Carnaval Romain and the Brahms/ Schoenberg Quartet from memory. Schoenberg's arrangement was commissioned by Otto Klemperer and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. It stopped just short of frivolity with touches of triangle and xylophone in the scherzo-like second movement, and even a tambourine and glockenspiel in the final

gipsy rondo. Brahms would have been surprised, too, at the bass clarinet and trombones, the latter sometimes muted. But then Schoenberg's love for Brahms's music didn't bind him to academic reverence. The LSO's playing was certainly sumptuous, though Michael Tilson Thomas coarsened the third movement by indulging what Schoenberg had unduly amplified - that march-like middle section didn't merit such bombast. Bernard Shaw, who called Brahms a sensualist with intellectual pretensions, might have said "I told you so."



Jessye Norman: she may scorn acting for intellectually inclined opera producers, but she can certainly do it in concert

MUSIC

#### Rough with the smooth

On the opening leg of an English and American tour at the Royal Festival Hall, London, Rob Cowan sees Vladimir Ashkenazy and the **Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester** turn a rocky start to a good finish

We were offered two sides of a single coin by the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester, one scuffed, the other gleaming bright. Vladimir Ashkenazy opened Dvorák's Cello Concerto briskly, prosaically and with precious little individuality on Thursday. The big horn melody which dominates the first movement was disappointingly deadpan, though the clarinettist's response was notably sensitive and cellist Lynn Harrell's first entry freewheeling, bold and gravelly in tone.

Harrell is a bear of a man with an endearing platform personality. He strode onstage holding his cello above his head, settled quickly and reacted visibly to every

bar of the long opening tutti. Eye-contact with the audience ensured two-way communication and the solo playing was bighearted and outgoing throughout. Best was the yearning re-statement of the opening theme, halfway through the first movement, and the heart-rending coda, with its defiant final crescendo.

Not everyone was happy. At the end of the first movement, Ashkenazy's incredulous gaze traced two young members of the audience as they ambled self-consciously from the choir seats to the nearest exit. Not exactly encouraging.

Harrell's approach to the Concerto incorporated generous slides and a fair de-

gree of phrasal freedom, but the orchestra was lacklustre. The strings were flimsy and ill-focused, whereas the brass were invariably too loud. The woodwinds sounded better (the lead flautist is something of a star), but the performances as a whole

seemed more like a competent rehearsal. To think that this was only the first lap of a tour that would cover the north and south of England and much of America... "They'll sound far more focused by the end of the tour," a leading record executive assured me. Fortunately, we didn't have to wait that long for an improvement.

Bernhard Hartog had led the Dvorák Concerto, and the excellent Hans Maile (a

fine soloist in his own right) led a swift, fiery account of Shostakovich's Tenth Symphony. Here one sensed greater involvement all round. Ashkenazy had attended the work's Moscow premiere under the formidable Evgeny Mravinsky and, by his own admission, never dreamt that he would

eventually conduct it himself. The opening was lithe and curvaceous, the climaxes well gauged though rather lacking in weight. Fans of Mravinsky's various recordings will have missed those lightning inflections in the ferocious 'Stalin' Scherzo, but the Allegretto generated blistering heat ~ especially in the

manic repetitions of the composer's mu-

sical signature (the notational equivalent of his initials). It was a good performance, lacking only in subtlety and 'big guns', but far more idiomatic than the Dvorák Concerto.

The really good news is that Ashkenazy and the Deutsches Symphonic-Orchester have recently recorded Scriabin's intended magnum opus, his three-hour Mysterium, or "Final Act" - a 'completion' by Alexander Nemtin that was 25 years in the making. "It's like a massive film score." I was told, a quasi-religious act intended to unite all the arts and a potential New Agestyle blockbuster. It is scheduled for release

#### A bone to pick from the dust of metaphysics

THEATRE

La Dispute/Contention, the latest instalment in the bold French Theatre season, was directed by hotshot Stanislas Nordey. David Benedict was less than impressed.

Recent glamorous revivals of Chekhov and Ibsen have caused many to argue that the classies are alive and well in Britain. Yet closer investigation reveals a distinct whilf of xenophobia among theatregoers who stay away in droves from foreign plays. The tiny Gate Theatre responds by going on the offensive, with a policy of presenting truly neglected foreign plays. But for most theatres, the likes of, say, Thomas Bernhard, are box-office suicide.

In terms of French theatre, you can just about get away with Molière, but Racine or Corneille do not exactly guarantee bums on seats. For British audiences, with the exception of Neil Bartlett and Mike Alfreds's hilarious production of The Game of Love and Chance a few years ago, the 18th century playwright Mariyaux is also a virmally unknown quantity. But now, like buses, two of his plays have come along at once. The ambitious French Theatre season, the largest ever French cultural event in this country, opened with due fanfare (the national anthem and 'La Marseillaise', since you ask) at the National Theatre with Les Fausses Considences by the Comédie-Française. Four weeks later it was La Dispute.

Advance word had it that Stanislas Nordey was France's answer to Stephen Daldry, to which one can only respond, What was the question?" Daldry is not-



The prince and his lover, Hermiane, in Marivaux's striking comedy La Dispute / Contention

ed for the boldness of his conceptions and his dramatic design sense. On the evidence of this production, Nordey shares his control of space, but in most other respects. I'm not sure that either of them would welcome the comparison.

At the heart of the evening, Nordey directed and appeared in Marivaux's striking comedy about a prince and his lover, Hermianc, witnessing a dramatic experiment in which two men and two women, raised in ignorance of the opposite sex (or indeed, of anyone else at all), are brought together to discover which sex is more faithful by nature.

Dressed only in old shabby raincoats on an empty stage surrounded by black drapes, the actors had a dance-like physicality almost entirely absent from classic theatre in this country, which was not only apt for the extremes of emotions, but invigorating to watch.

The downside was that it was bookended by a spot of metaphysics. Let me rephrase that: by two hours of metaphysics. Nordey began and ended with tracts contextualising fidelity in the age of Aids. The self-consciously repetitive, baidly staged opening speech on the nature of dying trembled on the border be-

tween monologue and monotony. The tortuous 40-minute closing section on love, pain and the whole damn thing toppled over entirely.

Intellectually, there was a case to be made, but theatrically? Stark address from a stage stripped to the back wall is hardly eye-opening (an urgently needed activity when many around me were nearer to eye-closing). Any dramatic impact the piece had made disappeared under the law of diminishing returns. Even for French speakers, there was more activity on the surtitle screen than on stage.

#### THE WEEK ON RADIO ROBERT HANKS

#### Ned Kelly and his merry men

There are few things in life notably Edgar Penzig, who has quite as pleasurable as having devoted his life to debunking the greatest invention since a stereotype confirmed, and Mean Times - Australia (Radio 4. Tuesday) offers this pleasure in abundance. At times, you find yourself wondering, in fact, whether the whole point of the series isn't to confirm all your worst fears of Australians.

There are six programmes, each exploring some episode in Australia's past through a mixture of interviews and documents. This week's programme, the second, looked at the nation's bushranging heritage. Bushrangers thrived be-

tween the 1850s and the 1880s: Robin Hoods according to some, who brought Ireland's long struggle against the British yoke to this New World and never hurt anybody who didn't deserve it.

Much of the programme was set at a bushrangers dinner, an annual event where the descendants of the rangers and the police who hunted them would meet up and chat amicably about the old days, the bushranging side bragging about just how bad the apples were on their family tree (one woman stated firmly that her ancestor was at least as nasty as any of the big names, like Ned Kelly; he just died too young to be properly

appreciated).

the bushranger myth, and claims that other people regard his books as the "ultimate" on the subject (he modestly refrained from saying that he thought so himself). Penzig's line is, roughly, that the bushrangers were bloodthirsty highwaymen who would sell their own grandparents. As far as that goes you could hardly blame them, seeing as

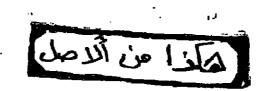
how their grandparents were so willing to sell them - we heard the story of one bushranger grassed up to the law by his grandfather for a bounty of

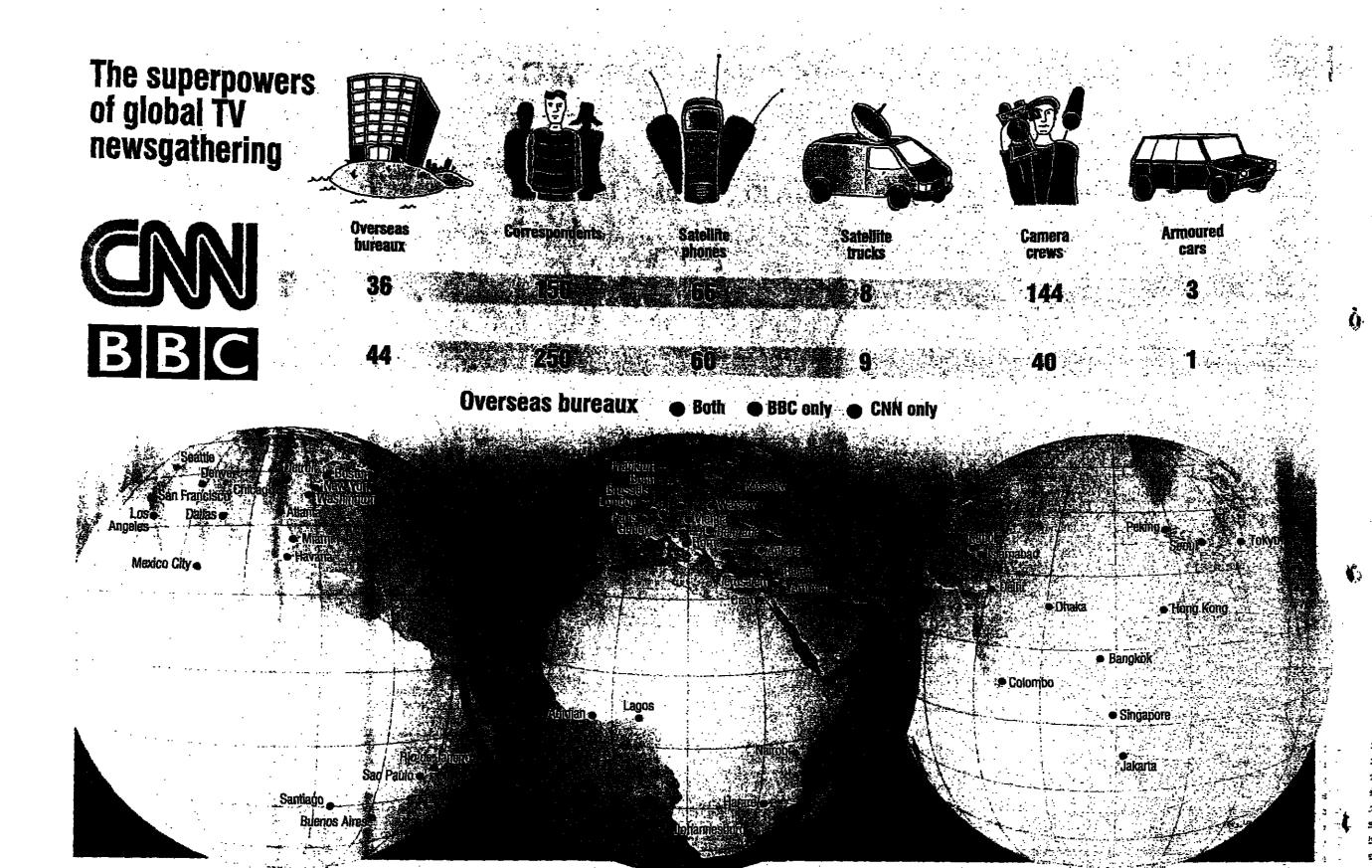
Penzig's doggedly unimpressed commentary on the awfulness of bushrangers ran through the programme, debunking every story, bringing things down to a practical, dry-as-dust level. Lots of women, he said will tell you that their grandmother hid the notorious Ben Hall under their skirts. But by referring to mean female heights in the 19thcentury typical Victorian lingerie and Hall's own well-attested peculiarities (including a gammy leg), Penzig demonstrated that this taken place.

It was emblematic that when we first met him he was donning one of his clip-on ties. the greatest invention since the wheel. Just as he would waste no time on dandyism in dress, so he despised it in

As I say, the programme at times seemed to be out to bolster all your prejudices about Australians. Taking this with last week's episode, on the first encounters between Europeans and Aborigines, you could begin to build a picture of Australian history as a bloody, racist, hate-filled mess. and modern Australians the inevitable product.

But I think John Dryden and Ann-Marie Evans are pushing towards something more subtle and serious than this: there lies behind the series a sense that because Australia (European Australia, that is) is such a young place, it has a particularly intimate relationship with its past. British heritage has a pipe and slippers and is happiest alone in front of a fire with a pile of muffins to work through and a Daily Telegraph to mull over. Australia's history is the sort of grandparent you can take down the pub to meet your mates. And what it's doing isn't confirming stereotypes; incident could never have rather, it fleshes them out shows that far from being empty, they are a pasty reflection of something vital and complex - and in so doing, wrecks them.





# The BBC goes into battle for supremacy of world airwaves

will break Sky's monopoly in round-theclock TV news by launching BBC News 24. As Media Editor Rob Brown explains, Auntie is more than a match for Murdoch's satellite service. She's now on a par with CNN in global newsgathering.

It is rather apt that the BBC's first rolling news channel for a British audience should come on air on the evening of Remembrance Sunday. As Great ness in global newsgathering is Britons gloat about their victory in two world wars, we have companies. Several of them the satisfaction of knowing that there is at least one sphere in which this sceptr'd isle is still a service, which has succeeded in land of hope and glory - global TV newsgathering.

The BBC is one of only two superpowers in this fastexpanding sphere. The other is network launched by the buccancering tycoon Ted Turner. ing up as the Nato and Warsaw Pact of the information age.

Sky News is a nimble oper-

Woodward trial, but it simply cannot summon the same resources as either of these giants. It's a bit like China - massive potential, but not quite a real superpower yet.

formidable force if it can forge closer links with other parts of the Murdoch media empire, especially Fox News in the US, but even then it is unlikely to launch a unified global service to compete with CNN International and BBC World, the 24-hour news channel which is the TV version of the World Service.

BSkyB's continuing weakrecognised by Britain's cable are threatening to ditch Sky News in favour of the new BBC poaching a number of producers from Murdoch's operation in recent weeks.

3BC News 24 will be able to call upon 250 correspondents CNN, the Atlanta-based cable across the planet. That's 100 more than CNN, which loves to boast about being the largest These two operations are shap- and most profitable electronic news and information company in the world.

As a public service broad-

audience in recent weeks with income from a compulsory an- eaux in the US (based in its live coverage of the Louise mual licence, the BBC is not Boston, Denver and Seattle) machine is as fiercely competitive as any of his commercial

Richard Sambrook has rea-It could become a more son to smile. To meet the challenge of feeding two rolling news channels (BBC News 24 for the British audience and BBC World for the rest of the world) he is being given an extra £15m to spend over the next few

Some of that money will be spent on upgrading the corporation's live capability, which at present lags somewhat behind CNN. But a considerable amount is also being invested in hiring more specialist correspondents, which the BBC regards as its trump card in the global TV news war.

CNN has been seeking to add depth and dimension to its programming by tailoring it to specific regions of the globe. It even hired a Brit - Sambrook's predecessor as head of BBC newsgathering, Chris Cramerto help it to "de-Americanise" its output. To assist in this task. CNN has just opened a major

new bureau in Frankfurt. But CNN has also just

profit-driven. But the man and still serves up an essentially spearheading its newsgathering American world view. Its network of correspondents certainly do not span the globe as comprehensively as the BBC, the world's premier public ser-

> vice broadcaster. "The BBC brings you more stories from more places," says Sambrook with pride. "Our expanding team of top specialists can also interpret and analyse events with more authority than any commercial service.

As a former BBC employee, Mr Cramer acknowledges these strengths, but he maintains that CNN is vastly superior in one crucial aspect - rapid mobilisation, "CNN can turn on a 10p and produce programmes at a hair's trigger," he says. "As a public service broadcaster, the BBC is inevitably much more

cumbersome and bureaucratic." BBC News bosses have encountered fierce hostility and resistance from their staff as they have struggled to restructure for the challenge of 24-hour news. Many of its star presenters and senior executives openly rebelled last month at a plan to streamline and centralise its ists threatened to boycott pilot 24 hour news."

agreed to revise their rotas.

There remains considerable resentment about the way in which news and current affairs programmes on the traditional mainstream channels, such as Newsnight, are having their budgets slashed to pay for the new round-the-clock service. Some question the wisdom of the BBC's entering the roundthe-clock news game when demand for such services - even when a young British nanny is on trial in Boston - remains

BBC mandarins have managed to deal with the internal dissent, but they have had to rely on others to cope with serious teething problems in the new digital newsroom at Television Centre. At one point, gremlins threatened to delay the launch of the service. Although the problems have not been completely ironed out, the corporation is still apparently on course to go into competition

with Sky News next Sunday. "It's going to be a bit of a bumpy ride at the beginning," says Sambrook. "We don't expect to produce a perfect Rolls-Royce service from day one. But we've got the talent on and off editing structure. And journal- screen to cope with the fury of

#### There's a lot more on offer, but do we want it?

new BBC channel since the launch of BBC2 33 years ago. Paul McCann, Media

Correspondent, explains what is on offer, how to receive it and why the BBC thinks we will want it.

BBC News 24 will be a TV channel ahead of its time when it launches next Sunday.

It was planned to launch this year by the corporation so that it could broadcast on digital television, But News 24 is here and almost ready, and digital television is still at least a year away. For news junkies this means they have a choice about whether to invest now in getting cabled up or wait until digital arrives.

The service should be available in all of the country's main conurbations because the six biggest cable operators have decided to carry the service. This is not generosity of soirit on their part.

News 24 is a licence-fee funded channel and as such is being offered free to those with cable. Sky's news service costs the operators to carry so a satellite so that it can beau tomers. With the BBC they can give their customers

something for nothing. In all, when it launches, BBC News 24 should be available in around 3 million existing cable homes.

Before you decide if you wish to stump up around £13 a month for a cable subscription that includes News 24. you will be able to watch it free every night on BBC1. Once BBC 1 closes down every night it will link up with News 24 throughout the night. The News 24 during the day when they eventually convert to digital terrestrial television.

Currently we watch television on analogue frequencies which will be switched off some time in the first 10 years of the next century. By then most homes should have bought a digital decoder that will cost around £300 for their existing televisions, or a new generation television that can

receive digital signals. News 24 will then be the main component of the BBC's

free digital offering. At some point in the next year the BBC is hopeful that

they charge that to their cus- News 24 into homes with satellite dishes.

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All this effort is for a rolling news service that will update weather, sport and headlines every 15 minutes.

It will be hosted by a selection of former BBC reporters, like Gavin Eslar, who have been trying out their instudio presentation skills during the summer on Newsnight. At present the audience for

rolling news service is minute. Sky News gets an 0.9 per cent share of viewing in homes with satellite dishes majority of people will see and, until the Louise Woodward trial, its biggest audiences were around 70,000 viewers. The BBC is banking on the fact that when digital televi-

sion arrives people will no longer wish to have their news. served up to them at times which suit the broadcasters. Tony Hall, the BBC's head of news, acknowledges that the bulk of viewers and lis-

teners will continue for some

time to get their news from the

established strands such as the Nine O'Clock News. "But an increasing proportion will consume news when they want it, be it through a 24 hour news chan-

#### A WEEK IN THE ARTS DAVID LISTER

committee meetings on the Royal Opera House were the most vivid theatre in town: the head-to-head clash between Gerald Kaufman and Mary Alien on Thursday was as dramatic as anything on stage, and Vivien Duffield, the ROH's chief fund-raiser, providing a brief but authoritative, almost Dame Peggy Ashcroft style, cameo.

The ROH was a hybrid, a strange animal, she said. "You say you're a strange animal," began Mr Kaufman solemnly

... "Not me, you understand," said Mrs Duffield with studied from the audience. A measured performance. But the best drama came well

out of the public eye, at the annual conference of the Theatrical Management Association Daldry in the keynote speech looked back on his career as artistic director of the Royal Court Theatre and provided as dramatic and poignant a solilstage during his reign. I am an-seeching the very heavens for speech he should now move. He should think himself lucky.

gry I achieved so little," he began, an unusual admission for innocence to raucous laughter a leader of thespians. But this was just the start of an impassioned mea culpa. "I am angry that I didn't commission more plays," he went on, then growing ever more lyrical, "that more seeds weren't sown, that in Norwich. There, Stephen more structures weren't put into place. And, in my own heart, I feel my own work has

not been good enough." Follow that! He did. "The refurbishment took me away oquy as any on the Royal Court from my work," he said as if be surely after his conference Royal Ballet at Hammersmith.

forgiveness. "I took my eye off the ball, and the ball in question is the simple act of putting on a play." The reaction was something theatre directors dream of - but usually for Many of you seem to be as irtheir plays. Kate Organ from West Midlands Arts described it as "moving dreadful and awesome". The chairman of the session told delegates they could take some time to reflect and compose themselves if they wished. Actually, I think He is perplexed by theatre ice-Daidry did rather well at the cream prices. Why, he wonders, Court, his championing of Martin McDonagh and his encouragement of much other new writing played a vital part the Duchess Theatre. Anothin modern Royal Court histo- er reader, Mr Alf Randles, is ry. He can leave the Court coufident of his reputation. But for a coffee at the bar at the

into dramatic performance, or indeed earn a fortune as the most tear-jerking after-dinner speaker in the land.

ritated as I am by high prices in the interval at arts events. Among those answering my request for examples is one eminent victim of catering abuse, the former secretary general of the Arts Council, Sir Roy Shaw. does a Losely ice-cream cost £1 at most theatres, £1.20 at the National Theatre and £1.60 at unhappy at having paid £1.30

Had he gone for the champagne he would have had to part with £50. That, you might remember, was in the "ballet for the people" season.

David Freeman, Opera Factory's innovative director, is joining forces with promoter Raymond Gubbay for opera in the round at the Royal Albert Hall next February. Their Madam Butterfly will involve flooding the hall with 15,000. gallons of water for a Japanese setting, with walk-ways and bridges running over the water to Madam Butterfly's House sitting on stilts.

Freeman explained over the statutory launch lunch, suitably enough in a Japanese restaurant, that the water would be drained at the interval to sym-

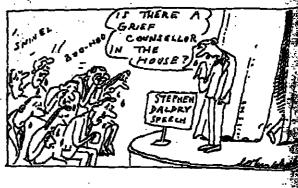


it will secure a transponder on nel or on the Internet," he said

bolise Butterfly's unhappy experiences in love. Perhaps such concepts are best experienced. rather than stated. He might, unugh, discover that next to children and animals, water is 'han : he stage when it tried to spiritual angst. Kind of.

recreate a river in Ayckbon Way Upstream. And those longer, seedier memories know that, in the Seventies, Raymond presented For Richmond in a swimming the most unpredictable prop. on stage. When it was drawn it, too, revealed the hero

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#### Financial rollercoaster leaves the world feeling queasy



Ups and downs: This week's bumpy ride on the world's financial markets began several months ago in Thailand, where there were concerns about the banking sector and a bubble economy

turbulence this week, shaking markets from Peking to Sao Paolo. In London and New York, the impact was limited. But the long-term results could be to shake the faith of developing countries in global capitalism, and undermine stability.

It is 11,000 miles from China to ine world from the South Chin; Sea to the South Atlantic, This week, they were suddenly and dramatically connected as markets tumbled, dragging down equities and currencies around the world. A pulse passed around ritory's new sovereign state own. It is bound to slow growth the world, rippling the waters in Victoria Harbour and at Copacabana beach. It was a vivid demonstration of the adage that markets are both global and lo- tween being cal: globally connected, but local in their effects.

The last such shockwave was 10 years ago, in a world very different from today. In 1987, there was still a Soviet Union with Mikhail Gorbachev in ministrative Region (SAR). The charge, Germany was divided. Chinese authorities have been and Tiananmen Square was just a square. Since then, a potent mixture of liberalisation. privatisation and market opening has transformed the world economy. This week's events - credit rating agency Standard have echoed well beyond the trading floors of Manhattan and the City.

ride began several months ago far from the big money centres, in Thailand, where there were echoing reassurance from Hong concerns about the banking sector and a bubble economy. It moved swiftly to neighbouring Malaysia, whose Prime Miaister, Mahathir Mohamed, attempted unsuccessfully to stem trading against his counin's corrency by calling the businessman George Soros "an idiot". Currency traders simply carried on betting.

The disease spread to In-

Stocks and currencies hit donesia, a country that has hytransmitted itself to every oth- begin with, could impact Latin seen a marked economic slow- er world market, and in particdown and where widespread ular to the bourses and forest fires that cast a haze over currencies of Latin America. the region appeared to sym-

bolise the growing crisis. league. It is also part of a coun-

exchange and the speculative Kong dollar provided the ter-China had to,

tread the caresupportive and being seen as interventionist, despite itspromises of au-

careful to stand aside and let the Hong Kong administration make the running. They are well aware of the risks of doing otherwise: the influential American and Poor's issued a statement vesterday stating that any mis-

Kong's credit worthiness". The message from Peking, Kong was that the economy was fundamentally sound, Hong Kong had massive foreign reserves and speculators would get burned if they tried to put pres-

The tornado whirled rapid-Wall Street and the City. Its impact there was limited, leaving both shaken though not fundamentally damaged. But it quick-

Ten years ago, Latin Amer-

ica was still emerging from Then came Hong Kong. In painful decades of military rule; 1987, it was a vibrant market but it was struggling with the burvery much in the third rank. den of the debt crisis, and most Now, after a decade of break- of its economies were still based neck growth, it is in the premier on the old inward-looking policies of the Seventies. The last try that is nominally still a few years have seen huge rates, more stringent budgets," Communist state, one of the strides, making Latin America Mr Lachman said. world's more closed economies, one of the world's most excitand one of the least experienced ing investment opportunities. So to the longer-term problems, in the ways of international its governments were at pains and to one country. "In the capitalism. China was sudden- to point out that the region's short term, the panic seems to. y unplicated in the politics of market losses were a result of have gone. Now, people are fothe global equity market place. "Asian flu" and that their eco-The record falls on the stock nomic fundamentals were Brazil has been very much on sound. But market analysts fear pressure against the Hong the Latin American crisis may now have taken on a life of its

American countries if it persists. They're going to have to follow policies that slow their economies down. When they Joseph Yam, one of the highest come to raise money next year, they're going to have to pay very much higher interest rates. What they'll do is they'll cut back their needs by following more restrictive domestic poli-

cies, maybe higher interest

Attention is shifting rapidly cussing on particular situations. people's minds," Mr Porzecan-

Brazil, the region's largest country, suffered the week's with its first major challenge. and possibly weaken currencies worst stock market losses, with the Sao Paulo

stock exchange losing much of the 50 per cent gains it had notched up during the year. The key Bovespa

Brazilian President Enrique Cardoso, whose ambitious privatisation and strong currency programme has drawn investors from around the world, sought to assure investors the econo-

my was sound and the currency, the real, would not be devalued. But there were widespread rumours during the weeks of problems in Brazil's banks and the Central Bank was reported to have spent at least \$10bn of its \$62bn (£38.7bn) foreign reserves to prop up it

sions programme but if the markets don't soon recover, the ability to sell those companies and place the new equity in a weak market.'

In Hong Kong, too, there are paid central bankers in the world. swept into the Hong Kong legislature to claim victory on all fronts. Not only had the speculative attacks been fought off, he declared, but the SAR's foreign reserves had risen as a result. Sir Donald Tsang, the financial secretary, was equally triumphant and earlier told legislators that ural adjustment" would cut the

strengthen competitivenes Businessmen have been con-James Tien, a legislator, who chairs the powerful Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, said he doubted the government's complacent version of events because it ignored the damage which the defence of the local currency was caus-

ing to the economy. There is an uneasy calm, with turbulence lurking around every corner. In these circumstances problems. China's Liberation Daily had no doubts: "Striking a blow at Hong Kong's financial system through the foreign exchange and stock markets has become a big conspiracy by for-

eign exchange dealers", it said.
The Liberation Daily, of course, is by no means a representative voice in Hong Kong. But it is the same message as that of Mahathir Mohamed, similar, even, to the new and cautious message of George Soros, once the prophet of global markets, now more concerned about the impact of un-"Brazil is potentially the bridled capitalism. And these are people with considerable extors," said Mr Porzecanski. perience of capitalism: for "Their biggest hope was to countries that have only maintain confidence through emerged into the global market place in the past decade, and which are still unsteady on their feet, this week's rollercoaster question marks will arise as to ride will have left them feeling

#### SOROS LOSES \$2 BILLION

Soros Fund Management, found- tumbled 8.9 percent on Monday, the ed by currency speculator George Soros funds are on average up 17.7 Soros, suffered its heaviest one-day percent for the year, Pattison said. loss - \$2bn - in the market plunge on Monday, the fund confirmed.

Half the losses were sustained by the Quantum Fund, which is the flagship of a group of seven hedge funds under the banner of the Quantum, bonds, currencies and commodities Group of Funds. The Quantum Fund had nearly dirs 10 billion in assets under management before the market drop. The recent volatility in the world's financial markets is re- billion in size, tumbled a huge 30 pe flected in the volatility of the Quan- cent. But it was Soros' gains in 1992 tum Group's performance." Soros that brought him international at-Fund spokesman Shawn Partison said yesterday.

only by the plunge in stock markets arrangement. That bet reaped his around the world on Monday, but also by the decline in the value of the dollar, which was weakened by the selloff on Wall Street.

Although the Quantum Fund

The Quantum Group of Funds, totaling nearly \$19 billion in assets under management, are high-risk hedge funds. That means they are investment funds that bet on stocks, worldwide with borrowed money.

The Soros funds also were pummeled in the 1987 stock market crash. The Quantum Fund, then about \$ 2 tention. He bet against the pound in 1992, wagering it would be forced to The funds were apparently hit hot drop out of a European monetary funds an enormous \$1 bn. Soros has also been attacked by Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed as the cause of Southeast Asia's currency turmoil.

#### index slid almost an element of xenophobia has crept into the debate about why 10 per cent on tonomy for its new Special Ad- through next year. Thursday, a fall five times as Hong Kong is facing financial The crisis has already tarsteep as that on Wall Street.

nished the region's image as a relatively secure, high-profit emerging market. "I think there will be lasting consequences of this," said Arturo Porzecanski, Chief Economist for the Americas at ING Barings, New York. The symptoms of the prob-

BY STEPHEN VINES

AND PHIL DAVISON

lem were speculative. "There d the City.

governance by Peking "could was a lot of leveraged buying This week's rollercoaster crode the pillars of Hong [before this week's crisis]," said was a lot of leveraged huying Desmond Lachman, head of emerging markets research at Salomon Brothers in New York. "A lot of people were ... borrowing other people's money and setting themselves up for very high returns. When that stops, you get the reverse sure on the Hong Kong dollar. process. They're selling not because they think the fundaly on from Hong Kong, hitting mentals are bad. They're selling

because they're forced to sell." But the results could be alltoo direct. "That kind of phenomenon, while not real to

magnet for currency speculathe privatisation and conces-

#### Lunn Pol

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#### Pitfalls of investing in emerging markets

In theory, investing in the emerging markets of small, under-developed countries will give better returns than conventional ones. Nic Gatti, Personal

Finance Editor, looks at

the potential pitfalls.

Earlier this month Save & Prosper, a UK investment management company, flew a bevy of journalists to Moscow, Amid to convince the scribes of the

tunities available in the former

launched a new fund.

But the timing was dreadful. On Red Tuesday this week, as equity prices collapsed, Russia's ASP general share index plummeted by 19 per cent, the worst fall of any market that day. By contrast, the Dow Jones rose by 4.7 per cent, while the index of top 100 UK companies in London fell by 1.76 per cent.

The Russian example illustrates a dilemma for investors: how can they hope to out-perform returns generally available from equity markets? For intoasts of vodka, the visit aimed creasing numbers of savers, the answer has been to look to wonderful investment oppor- emerging markets.

These are typically seen as

fore, spectacular returns. The International Finance Corporation, part of the World Bank, says there are four main regions : Latin America, Asia, Eastern Europe and "others", which include Africa, the Middle East and some Mediterranean countries. There are vast differences between these markets, which range from India to Grecce, Indonesia to Kenya,

Hungary to Brazil. But what marks them all out going through vast economic or political upheavals out of which those with an inside track can these high-risk funds.

Soviet Union, where S&P has developing stock markets where benefit. Foreign investment alrapid development can lead to lows companies in those counspectacular growth and, there- tries to develop far more rapidly kets often operate in unstable than otherwise. In turn, cheap environments and are therefore shares in infant companies can grow exponentially in value and the market as a whole can benefit: in Russia, for example, the stock market leapt by around 100 per cent in the first they may find they cannot even six months of this year.

emerging markets have meant a lot of funds from the UK and US have gone to these coun- rapidity with which they can leap tries. From Britain, according to to more developed economies, the HSW financial statistics is the perception that they are provider, more than £2.5bn is in- tating into full-blown collapses vested in a range of unit and investment trusts specialising in

But risk has its potential downside. Emerging stock marvery unstable. This, coupled with illiquidity and difficulty matching buyers to sellers of shares, means investors can get burnt easily: as markets collapse dispose easily of their stock as The potential attractions of it drops heavily in value. One effect of the financial traumas infecting emerging markets is the in this case Hong Kong, mueven in mature markets such as the US. In turn, these feed back to the developing economies.

كاندا عن ألاصل

# The jury system: bulwark of liberty, or perverse anachronism?



EDITOR: ANDREW MARR. DEPUTY EDITOR: COLIN HUGHES. ADDRESS: 1 CANADA SQUARE. CANARY WHARE **LONDON E14 5DL** TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171-345 2435

Louise Woodward's conviction for murder was a miscarriage of justice. Even acknowledging that despite extensive live coverage on satellite television nobody in Britain has heard all the evidence that was before the court, two points are unarguable. One is that there must be reasonable doubt about Ms Woodward's culpability in the death of baby Matthew Eappen, which could have been caused by a pre-existing or an accidental injury. The other is that, even if she did harm him, the prosecution was in no way able to prove that it was premeditated and committed with malice, the definition of second-degree murder in Massachusetts. (By not handing down a verdict of first-degree murder, the only thing the jury acquitted her of was extreme cruelty.)

The most serious charge which could conceivably be justified by the evidence was manslaughter, or even assault and battery, which was the original charge.

There is some evidence that Ms Woodward was a neglectful childcarer, but none - apart from the inconclusive nature of Matthew's injuries - that she was violent. It is hard not to share the view of Barry Scheck, the defence lawyer, who sounded rather unlike the flamboyant showman he is alleged to be. "I do not understand how anyone in their right mind could come to this verdict,"

So should we condemn the system of American justice, or simply the perverse verdict of one group of 12 Americans? The first point to be made is that it is neither British arrogance nor anti-American to say that there are aspects of the Massachusetts system which are inferior to the criminal justice system in the United Kingdom. The use of the legal system as a platform for political ambitions, and the right of the defendant to choose the verdicts available, seem to have combined to leave the jury with no option but to go for an excessively harsh sentence if they did not want to acquit. It seems that the state's original charge was raised to murder by Thomas Reilly, a district attorney who wanted to appear tough on crime in order to further his ambitions to run for Attorney-General of Massachusetts. If Ms Woodward had then asked for the lesser charge of manslaughter to be considered, this would inevitably have been read as a partial admission of guilt.

There are several other aspects of American judicial systems which are



bad, although they do not seem to have contributed to this particular injustice. The absence of restraint on pre-trial publicity, and indeed on emotional interviews during the jury's deliberations, must op-

erate against the chances of a fair trial - although televising court proceedings may not in itself be a bad idea.

Of course, there are respects in which American systems are better than the British. American judges, for example, are more representative of their society than British ones. And recent English legal history has a less-than-proud record of a succession of miscarriages of justice - often on the basis of forced or false confessions.

But there is a bigger question, which must be asked on both sides of the Atlantic: are juries really the bulwark of civil liberties, or are they now an anachronism? In the Woodward case, as in many criminal trials, the jurors seem to have been influenced by emotion rather than evidence, while in complex fraud trials it is almost impossible to secure convictions - complexity itself often seems grounds for reasonable doubt.

It has long been an article of liberal faith that juries are unpredictable and sometimes perverse, but that this is an essential safeguard against a legal system becoming an arm of the state and suborned by political interests. Landmark verdicts, such as those in the Ponting and Marchioness cases, when juries famously

cocked a snook at judges' instructions. are held up as beacons of citizens'

And so they should be. But the jury system cannot be preserved, fossilised, for all time. There is evidence that committees tend to make worse decisions than individuals - and that the inter-personal dynamics of a group of 12 makes it likely that decisions will swing arbitrarily between extremes. But there is hardly any evidence about how juries actually work in practice. This must change, and the sacred cordon drawn around their deal, liberations (in the UK) should be lifted. after each case. Meanwhile there is plenty of evidence that juries are unrepresentative, with recruitment carried out in secret and the articulate and assertive most likely to be excused. Both Americans and Britons want to be tried by jury, but do not want to serve on them: this lack of civic responsibility must be corrected. But it would be wrong to decide, on the basis of one case, that jury trials were inherently unfair.

And it would be wrong to condemn the American justice system out of hand, at least until Judge Hiller Zobel has had the chance to throw out the jury's verdict on Tuesday.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Woodward trial

Sir: The tragedy played out as a whodunit in a New York courtroom ("Woodward is found guilty of murder in the second degree", 31 October) represents the ruin of at least six lives: a dead baby whose brief life cannot have been other than miserable, a young woman facing a lifetime as a prisoner in a foreign jail, her parents, and the baby's parents - all ordinary people caught up in a nightmare.

It should make us all reflect on the casual way in which what is the greatest responsibility that most of us are likely to take on - the care of a helpless infant over the most formative months of his life - has become a commodity to be bought and sold to suit the convenience of those concerned: a mother's the whole ghastly apparatus wish to pursue her career; a of the American criminal legal young woman's wish to explore the world at the threshold of her adult life.

What the parents needed to do to make the situation work - given their investment in bringing a strange schoolgirl (not much more) over the ocean to take almost complete charge of their household - was to offer support rather than criticism and to cut their losses if it became clear that the

arrangement wasn't working. Our concern for the alleged murderess ought to be at least as great as what we feel for the two nurses similarly accused in Saudi Arabia, given her youth and inexperience; and the Goverament should exert themselves in this case to ensure that she should be transferred to a British jail to be in contact with her family.

Professor JOHN A DAVIS Cambridge

Sir: One of the most pertinent points raised by the case of Louise Woodward is that of childcare agency staff being unqualified and therefore illequipped to assess the skills and competence of nannies and other carers of children. Experience and qualifications enable our agency to not only to assess the childcare skills and knowledge of a nanny, but also alert us to incompetent or bogus nannies.

However we are very rarely questioned by parents about the background and qualifications of staff. It is imperative that parents demand this of agencies that are providing not only qualified nannies but also other unqualified carers of children, to prevent another tragedy occurring. M J STORRIE L H HALE The Care Company Grantham, Lincolnshire

Sir: Celia Dodd is wrong (31 October). Eighteen is not old enough. A child under school age should only be left in the charge of a qualified, highly trained professional, or its own mother. Even a mother can very often find it difficult to cope with her own screaming baby. Babies require constant, un-

remitting attention, 24 hours, day and night. They are demanding, exhausting, draining, emotionally and physically. If a parent feels he or she cannot or does not want to give this, a highly paid, highly trained person should be left in charge to care for what should be the most important, precious and valuable new addition in the home.

ARIELLA LISTER Hatch End, Middlesex

Sîr: Media sensationalism on the part of certain sections of the American press and the demonisation of Louise Woodward by the Boston Globe and Boston Herald mean that it has been well nigh impossible for her to obtain a fair trial. It is not so much Louise Woodward who was on trial in Boston but

DAVID CLEGG Lichfield, Staffordshire

Sir: Suzanne Moore says (Comment, 31 October) we should value those who work with children - teachers, nannies, childminders. Quite right.

And we should value mothers who sacrifice career, income and, currently, status when they choose to stay at home with their children to help them through their formative years. Society's failure to recognise the dedicated mother is where it all starts to go wrong. STEPHEN PRIDDLE Brentwood, Essex

Algeria's 'disappeared' Sir: Robert Fisk's articles (30

October) are typical of a trial by media where only the case for the prosecution is presented.

His report on "the disappeared" has very limited sources of information, on whose allegations doubt is never cast for a single moment. He does not even attempt to back up these allegations by any corroborating evidence or other source of information. Yet it has been established by the Algerian Observatory for Human Rights that "the disappeared" have in fact, in most cases, joined the terrorist gangs, and they had no need of a lawyer's services to witness their intentions before doing so. Others have been murdered, mutilated and thrown into wells by GIA assassins, as in cases recently uncovered by the security forces. Eye witnesses and victims of terrorism have another tale to tell from that reported by your journalist who had, in fact, interviewed some of them (25 October), but they were obviously not worthy of appearing on your front page. Perhaps because none of these witnesses was "an attractive young woman in a red dress

with Princess Diana-style hair". A few accounts are sufficient for him to draw general conclusions as to the behaviour of the police force. You cannot however escape the fact that the same accounts represent the

best chance for a political asylum seeker of seeing her request accepted.

Mr Fisk dwells upon the presence of police officers who had escorted him for one of his interviews. All foreign journalists having stayed in Algeria will confirm that they themselves had asked for this protection because they know that they are targeted by the terrorists on two counts; that of being foreign and that of being journalists.

If the situation in Algeria were ever to be described one day as being "the most covered and least reported", as has been said about other situations, no doubt Mr Fisk will be recognised for the part he played in this.

AHMED BENYAMINA Ambassador . Embassy of Algeria London W11

Sir: Robert Fisk is to be applauded for his exposure of the horrific practices of the Algerian police force (30 October).

The policy of states "disappearing" those perceived to be their opponents is far more widespread than generally recognised. It occurs in many countries that claim to be democratic: including Colombia, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and Turkey. Algeria's neighbour Morocco has for 22 years systematically applied the policy against the people of the Western Sahara.

All of these states received military training from Britain under the last Conservative government. Will matters now change? The first thing that should be done, immediately. if the new human rights focus in foreign policy is to have any substance, is that the Government should pledge to stop all military training for states carrying out "disappearances". Secondly, and closely linked, no arms should be supplied to such regimes. And thirdly, Britain must treat asylum seekers fleeing from these countries with a new humanity and acceptance.

ANDY HIGGINBOTTOM British Section International Committee Against Disappearances ondon NI7

Sir: The otherwise excellent report by Robert Fisk was spoilt by reference to the oxymoron "civilised standards of warfare".

Dr GARY SLAPPER Milton Keynes,

Sir: Robert Fisk's report on the massacres in Algeria (30 October) missed one vital ingredient in the jigsaw: the active and direct involvement of

NAVED SIDDIOI Slough, Berkshire

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



Louise Woodward, found guilty of murder in the second degree

Future of the PO

in the doldrums ("Post Office

to remain in public hands", 23

October), then this is a huge

disservice both to the em-

ployees of the corporation and

its customers and a massive

wasted opportunity to safe-

Labour governments will now

have failed to transform the

Post Office into an interna-

tionally competitive venture. It

is with an awful sense of déjà

vu that we hear the same peo-

ple raise the same scare stories

as they did before the privati-

sation of BT in 1984. Then we

were told that rural services, the

999 facility and public tele-

phone kiosks would all be a

in a competitive market against

organisations such as priva-

tised European postal operators

which are now very active in the

UK. It needs two things: escape

from the rigours of PSBR and

sector management expertise to

match its competitors and

emerging alternatives such as

The Post Office can succeed

thing of the past.

Both Conservative and

guard its future.

Photograph: Reuters

PETER WYNN DAVIES Sir: If the Government has de-London N2 cided to leave the Post Office Sir: The use of a picture of a

Soya bean Fords

scrap Ford car, an Escort,

alongside your article "Soya bean car that will make rust a thing of the past" (29 October) gives an ironic twist to the content.

The first Henry Ford (1863-1947) experimented extensively with soya bean derivatives in the Twenties and Thirties. By the late Thirties, components of Ford vehicles such as switch knobs and steering wheel rims were being made of soya-derived plastic. The paint, too was soya beanderived; I have a publicity photograph of Mr Ford hitting the boot lid of his own car to demonstrate the strength of the paint. NIGEL STENNETT-COX North Walsham,

Asylum policy

Sir: I have never been a starrya massive injection of private eyed optimist about the new govemment, yet even I have been surprised to discover that, after Michael Howard, the next move in asylum policy has been to the right ("New curbs on bogus asylum seekers", 28 October). Earl RUSSELL House of Lords London SWI

() 668 19 19 ●

Pulp fiction

Sir: You report ("The return of Jarvis Cocker", 31 October) that the winsome Mr Cocker has been absent from the live scene for well over two years. I seem to recall several thousand people leaving important parts of their brains somewhere in a field near Chelmsford in the summer of 1996 as Pulp headlined the V96 festival.

DAVID WARLOW Woodford Green,

Telegraph' profits Sir: Rob Brown asserts (Media+, 27 October) that The Times, The Daily Telegraph, The Guardian and The Independent are "generating over £700m in revenue but not one of these four papers is currently turning a profit". The Telegraph is not only turning a profit but has done so for the past nine consecutive years. JEREMY DEEDES Managing Director Telegraph Group Limited London E14

Peninsular people

Sir: Surely we are not an isthmus people (leading article, 30 October). The Channel tunnel, itself an isthmus, makes us a peninsular and turns us into a peninsular people. COLIN MURISON SMALL London SE27

#### LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Readers write, in tones rang- question. Like the rest of the hearty acclamation, that the don't use "younger" in the have readers, and we all know their teens or twenties, yet burdened with immense pessimism, mental weariness and inflexibility - people with sensible pension provision and clothes made to last, who stay in at night reading political biographies and who find the Daily Telegraph a little racy. Then there are the people who are physically much older, but who are inquiring, hard to shock, thirsty for new experiences and ideas - often more so than when they were

I've had letters approving the boldness of the redesign from nonogenarians, and criticising the change from school students. One crude caricature of the "new reader" that we want - a caricature gleaned from conversations with people in advertising - might be: female; sexually liberated and adventurous; radical in her thinking, and certainly interested in issues like gender, the environment and the Third World; clever, cultured; stroppy; independent-minded; free-thinking. But before you imagine a cool twenty-something Soho type, let it be said that this is a fair, indeed rather reticent sketch of Naomi Mitchison, the author and feminist. Today, as it happens, is her birthday. She is 100; and there are a lot of older.people on this planet who are still in their teens.

Without television coverage of the Louise Woodward trial, The Independent would have been less interested in it. The gavel-to-gavel live coverage was running in this newsroom, as I suppose all others, and constantly attracted a knot of bystanders, lured away from phones and keyboards by a sudden tough

ing from pained reproof to American and British audience, we were constantly paper is "aiming for younger making judgements about readers". So we are: but I whether or not "she did it" unfair judgements, based on straightforward sense. We Louise's demeanour, personal prejudice about child people, who are physically in care, the shape of the prosecuting attorney's face, the coiffured poise of the mother, and so on.

But that, of course, was part of what was going on in the jury's collective mind too: they were swayed by trivial detail, as well as medical evidence, because they are human. So it doesn't seem to me that the trial was worse for being televised, or that the "media circus" necessarily changed the result. Lawyers always grandstand and play to the gallery, with or without It isn't simply a hangover cameras present. But with from the Sixties, as in AbFab. television there is a vast, voteless second jury of millions Now it comments, generally unfavourably, on the first jury's decision. The televised courtroom produced a big, informed reaction that will help Louise Woodward. So the effect was, if anything, positive. Had we had bigger public interest in, and reaction to, recent British court cases, we would have had more justice.

Maria Salasa

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One aspect of media-saturated life that I'm becoming increasingly aware of is the relatively sophisticated newsawareness of children. Last week we were involved in a car crash. No one was hurt, but it was a big bang and as we were describing what happened to the police in a neighbouring house, the conversation was constantly interrupted by our nearly-three-year-old announcing: "Poocwar Pwincess Dianal She was kilt because 'er dwiver was dwunk. She wasn't wearing a seathelt. Poocowaaar Pwincess Diana." Then, yesterday morning, as we had breakfast, school bags sitting by the door, our eight year-old suddenly said: "Dad. can I go to Summerhill, please?"

Andrew Marr

#### QUOTE UNQUOTE

When your back is against the wall financially, creative juices flow - Anita Roddick of the Body Shop on "guerrilla matering" Telling people not to hold lighted fireworks is like advising them not to stick their fingers in electricity sockets. What next? A campaign to tell us that using a crossbow to shoot apples off children's heads is dangerous? - Jeremy Paxman, Til pundit I don't go to church. The gratuitous nastiness you came across was hard to take. It put me off ... - Rebecca Jenking hovelist and daughter of Dr David Jenkins, former Bishop of Ditham Being Chancellor is not a woman's job. There is a difference between the sexes and people who don't know that don'tknow what people are like with their clothes off. So there - ! ord Plealey By meeting heads of state you realise they are just onlinary people doing a very difficult job - Bob Jordan, retiring comman

at 10 Downing Street We still have a Goldilocks economy - neither too hot for too cold. But whenever you get Goldilocks you get three bears, in this case: Hong Kong, New York and now London Justin Urquhart Stewart of Barclays Stockbrokers

Grey isn't in fashion because it is never out of fashion Fabio Piras, designer

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#### Fun with inflatables ... and other unlikely pleasures



#### DAVID **AARONOVITCH** THE FETISH GAME

So, the smart thing to be is a fetishist. This will come as something of a surprise to those who first encountered fetishism in the pages of exciting anthropological classics (Naked Breasts in New Guinea by Professor WW Fawcett, and the like), or as incomprehensible cases from Freud's own notebooks. In one situation fetishism could be seen to be a product of a disordered mind, producing men that worshipped toenails, or of a primitive culture resulting in tribes that worshipped Prince Philip.

Well, we know better now, don't we? Thursday's report in this very newspaper helped to put us all straight. To fetishise is to live, according to Tim Woodward, editor of Skin Two, a fetish magazine (ie, a magazine for fetishists, not to be confused with a magazine fetishist, who presumably gets pleasure from the wearing of magazines).

Mr Woodward informed readers that feeling strangely about odd things was all the rage. "If you had told me five years ago," he said, "that there would be a regular fetish club night in Weston-Super-Mare. I would have said you were crackers. Now there are clubs in Kidderminster and Colchester.

It would have been an interesting thing to be described as "crackers" by a practising rubber fetishist, but Mr Woodward has a point nevertheless. London, by virtue of its size, must by the simple laws of chance have a club for just about everything, if you know where to look. But Weston? It's the sort of place that people retire to when they no longer wish to even think about ordinary sex, let alone dress up in PVC and high If Weston now throbs to the beat of

fetish drums, and if Kidderminster joins this urgent tattoo, something, as they say, is up. But what?

In circumstances like this, it behoves the enquiring journalist to take himself off to his PC, and plug into the Net. So. manipulating my mighty Search Engine (sorry about that), I called up "fetishism" and discovered a page that linked similarly curious enquirers to a

large number of different fetish sites. And here - with some censorship which removed those practices requiring invasive surgical intervention and those that might not sit easily with a large breakfast - is my provisional fetish list: boots, corsets, feet, furs, inflatables, latex, leather, lycra, nylon, pantyhose, PVC, spanking, tattoos, uniforms and vampires.

(By the way, if your own particular fetish isn't here, don't worry. I'm sure that you too are perfectly abnormal.)

Clearly, when it comes to fetishism. working in the textiles industry gives you something of a head start. But the fetish I chose to follow up was that involving "inflatables". This, readers of the inflatables homepage are solemnly assured, does not refer to blow-up dolls (which the author regards as naff). No, it involves getting off on balloons (blownup or popped - no narrow-mindedness there) as well as Lilos and air-filled rafts.

At which exotic point I began to wonder how a fetishist discovers his or her fetish in the first place. It must be to say the least ~ a hit-and-miss affair. Many of us, especially in adolescence, find the act of choosing one out of two rather carefully delineated sexes hard enough. So the chances of working out that the thing causing you maximum tumescence is, say, your mother's pressure cooker must surely be very slight. Unless, of course, you go about with (in the case of men) your equipment held out in front of you like a divining rod, marching round John Lewis in search of a buzz.

This difficulty may explain why fetishisms seem to congregate around clothing, as we have seen. Most of us have been in clothes shops, our girl and boyfriends wear clothes, clothes are discussed a great deal, so it's easier to understand. You may spot a pair of leather trousers on a shapely person, and believe that each enhances the other. What more natural than that this should lead you ~ by stages - to the purchase of a leather cat suit, complete with face mask, two-inch protruding nails and zips strategically placed at genitals, nipples. navel and mouth?

Now, this makes many of us feel very inadequate. There we are, with our quotidian lusts (pretty girls, nice bosoms, that sort of thing), and here are these other fabulous beings, whose sexual inclinations are so precise, so finely calibrated, that it takes a thousand quid's worth of equipment and a lot of polish to keep them in balance. As Mr Woodward describes it. "It's not enough just to have sex any more. You want to look, you want to

In the Sixties, naive hippies thought they were so cool for having come to precisely the opposite conclusion. Now they're sexually square. Others have discovered a sexual aesthetic that is as far beyond us, as Gilbert and George are beyond Barbara Cartland.

Well, OK. But a word of caution before we despair, or run out to discover what really turns us on. Suppose it's all a great big try-on? Suppose that these guys have figured out that the rest of us are in no position to contradict them when they say they just adore spanking vampires in rubber rings? After all, if you lived in Kidderminster, might that not be what

# The strangest relationship: nannies and working mothers



**POLLY TOYNBEE CONFLICT OF EXPECTATIONS** 

A frisson of fear is shuddering through the world of working mothers. Louise Woodward may not be the namy from hell, certainly no pre-meditating murderess, but she is alarmingly like nannies and au pairs many of us have employed and relied on over the years. The vengeful Eappens with their unreasonable demands and expectations are also uncomfortably like many bad employers. For, one way or another, the relationship between nanny and mother is often a contract made in hell on both sides. It brings out the worst in people, for there can be few other working contracts where the wishes and aspirations of employer and employee are so radically at odds with one another.

With my youngest child now twelve, I have finally escaped from over twenty years of dependency on nannies. They have ranged from the two who will forever be family friends to a short sharp unpleasant episode with one who lasted just three weeks: we spotted her a year later in a television documentary about inmates of a mental hospital.

There are an estimated 100,000 nannies and au pairs working in British households. Britain has the highest number. of working mothers in Europe and also has the least state provided nursery care. The Professional Association of Nursery Nurses was quick yesterday to point out that anyone can call themselves a namey, for there is no register of the approved or qualified, as there is for child minders. But it's doubtful a register would make much difference.

It is a curious and uncomfortable fact that so many professional women's success depends on the educational failure of another category of girls, most of whom left school with too few qualifications to earn enough to leave home except as a nanny. It is not exactly a class gap for most of these girls are middle class underachievers. It's an opportunity gap. It is also a difficult collision of aspirations.

The pages of The Lady, that bizarre magazine that survives mainly on the nanny trade,

tells the pitiful story of eager, desperate parents using every means they can to attract the perfect person for their precious children, "Mary Poppins Wanted!" a lot of them write, pleading for a saint. They fill their ads with words describing the charms of lovely Daisy and sweet-pie Ben, looking for a gentle, responsible, caring, humorous angel who will love their charges as if they

were their own. Impossible

dreams, in other words. Desperate nanny-seekers feel it's a sellers' market. An experienced nanny in London usually wants her own car and even a flat. With pay at around £250 gross a week, that's not a bad wage with no food, heat, telephone or rent costs for someone without qualifications. On the other hand, nannies fear exploitation and are full of horror stories of monster families expecting them to scrub floors, cook family meals and work weekends for pay as low as Louise Woodward was getting. They feel its a buyers' market. Each deeply suspects

exploitation by the other. Who chooses who in nanny interviews? Mainly I've felt I was anxiously selling the charms of myself, my bouse and children to sceptical choosy candidates. Once terms and conditions have been agreed over the phone you settle down to the interviews. (Many never turn up for the interview at all, wasting days off work.) Then you ask them daftlike, "Do you like children?" "What are your interests?" "Tell me about your previous jobs." All their references look much the same, and you gaze at them

helplessly wondering how you can tell if they are kind, bright, careful and honest; not daring to ask if a tattooed boyfriend lurks in the background who's a bouncer they met in a night club recently. After five or six interviews a kind of desperation sets in. How do you know? Considering the high-powered personality and aptitude tests often applied to relatively unimportant jobs, it's astonishing how little you have to go on in choosing someone to whom to

entrust your children for most of their waking lives. According to the Eappens, Louise Woodward spent two hours on the phone talking to a friend when she should have been caring for the children, couldn't get up in the mornings and was generally unwilling. They thought they'd employed an "English nanny". Did they fantasise about upper class English uniformed nursery life, with a nanny devoted to a lifetime in service? Few nannies are in it as a vocation. It's a way to get away from home to big city, bright lights. It is freedom, not servitude they crave. The work is an unfortunate byproduct, not a career. Social life

is what they live for and nannying is the means to that end.

ly useless pro forma questions likely it is that nannying is only a temporary phase in their life. Hardly surprising that these

arrangements are often a recipe for mutual disappointment. They can work, but only if both sides manage a modus vivendi in which you acknowledge each others wishes and compromise both ways. The Eappens harsh written "contract" was dreadful. So was their decision to leave an inexperienced teenager so long with such tiny children. But that goes on everywhere. Mothers who want to work often have no choice. The poorer the mothers, the worse the choices open to them. But this is one area where even well-off mothers are often faced with pretty poor choices in child care.

Now wait for the avalanche of articles telling mothers they are irresponsible and they deserve harm to come to their children if they are so selfish that they choose to work. Why have children if you don't want to care for them? As it is. working mothers manufacture quite enough anxious guilt of And it is a serious problem.

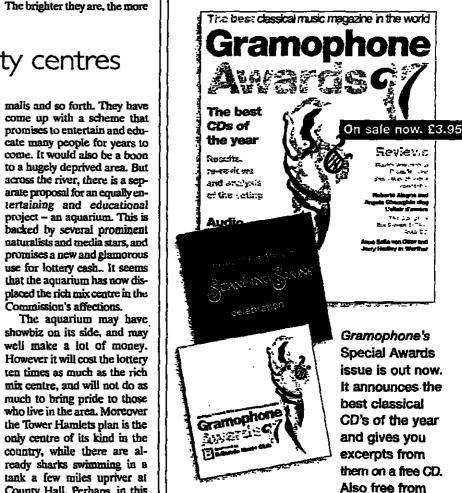
their own without any help from others. In the wake of this case, not enough questions will be asked about how children should be cared for, who should care for them, how it should be organised or paid for. Where are fathers? Why do we all work too many hours? Where are the crèches and nurseries nearty all parents need?

Why, even now, are these issues so low down the political agenda? At least Harriet Harman has insisted that we have something called a national child care strategy, but we still don't have the child care, nor a government committed to putting money into it. Most children are still cared for pretty haphazardly, informally, with a hotch potch of often unsatisfactory arrangements. The fact that even the middle classes can't solve this problem satisfactorily ought to make it a pressing political priority. If it was a men's issue it probably would be. But child care remains a mother's problem even when she works the same hours as a father.



A working mother's dream: but finding the perfect nanny is no walk in the park Photograph: Hulton Getty

#### If you only buy one music magazine, make it this one



Gramophone, an exclusive excerpt from

Award yourself a copy now.

Paul McCartney's "Standing Stone."

#### Of port and cigars, wills and paintings, aquariums and community centres

I'm told that among the many pleasant things that students of philosophy at Oxford have to do is to consider conundrums. Well, think about the following: if a kind benefactor has left enough eash to supply your college with an infinite supply of port, but your wine cellar is full to overflowing with the stuff, do you have the right to spend the money on cigars? Greed, betaval, honour and loyalty all josue in the mind over this one; should pragmatism triumph over principle? Ought the living he able to reassess the intentions of the dead? And does it mat-

Yes it does. This week the courts in Scotland ruled that the trustees of the Burrell Museum in Glasgow were able to set aside Sir William Burrell's express wish in his will that the 8,000 exhibits in this beautiful building should not be moved. He feared for the objects' safety, but his stricture means that the museum is denied some £120,000 income from renting out its treasures. You could say that old Burrell was a curmudeconly old berk: you could say that the original bequest could not have taken account of modern conservation practice which can ensure that the artifacts are not damaged in



**PHILLIPS** PAST DESIRES. PRESENT NEEDS

transit; but what you can't say is that Burrell was not clear about his wishes. So you could say that this is a breach of trust. But does progress invalidate binding commitments?

Tinkering with the past makes me nervous. Superman's dad told him early on not to interfere with human history: it would always turn out badly, and as fellow readers will confirm, it always did. Moreover, turn your back on the past and it rears up and kicks you in the behind. Across the globe. land mines lie in wait for those who think that war has ended and that the combatants' new

words have obliterated the old conflicts. Anyway a few eternal verities

can help to make change bearable; we need anchors in today's rushing tidal wave of change. Manchester United can design a new strip every month and still get away with making their supporters pay large sums of money for each version because the fans know it'll always be red; they belong to a scarlet tribe, whatever the current pattern of its warpaint. New Labour keeps the left in case it feels the need to kick the dog; every Tory leader has to appease Michael Heseltine. These things make us feel that we know the contours of our country. But how should we act when the past intrudes into the present?

This week, a new extradition treaty came into force between the UK and Brazil. HMG promptly whacked in a request for the return of the escaped train robber Ronnie Biggs, who has spent most of the past three decades in the Brazilian sunshine, no doubt repenting his part in the heist and the death of the railwayman that followed it. But over the time, Biggs has become a sort of pantomime Jack-the-Lad, seen consorting with leggy young women, regretfully declining to return to London to help the

Home Office with its inquiries. A school of thought has grown up that suggests that such old rogues should be left alone to die in peace; that being shut away from his friends and family is equivalent to being incarcerated; and that the police should spend their time on something that affects today's citizens. Fortunately, most people seem to have dismissed this for the sentimental tosh it is. The law against stealing others' money and assaulting them does not change with fashion.

Then there are more difficult legacies, not the property of individuals. The rainforest that covers four-fifths of Guyana is probably the most virgin (ok. so you either are or aren't a virgin, but you know how forests are) in the world, simply because the country has never had the money to develop it. Now, rich developers are promising large sums of moncy to the cash-strapped Guyana government if they can do some limited forestry. The government has tried to reassure the world's eco-protesters by setting aside a huge tract of land, about the size of a large English county, for ecological research. Should Guyana accept that there are hungry mouths to feed and the ancient mission to preserve the forests may now go by the wayside? Or should it insist that certain assets are so intrinsically valuable that they must be preserved as they are? In this case, pragmatism will probably win.

When you come down to it, I guess the rule has to be that you should not interfere with the wishes of the dead, but that you do have a right to change the circurnstances of the living. Mr Biggs may protest, as may the eco-warriors, but at least they'll get their say. But to return to the conundrum facing the students of Oxford, does it ever make sense to buy more port? It is a very real question for those

who dispense lottery money. David Mellor (who is, in a sense, the man who willed the lottery to us) was, when I last saw him, both alive and in possession of a full set of marbles. I wonder what he would make of the struggle that is going on in East London over the funds from the Millennium Commission? Tower Hamlets Council and others have for ten years, been trying to get a "rich mix" centre off the ground, to celebrate the cultural diversity of that area, which for centuries has been the gateway for immigrants to England - Jews, Huguenots, Bangladeshis, Socome up with a scheme that promises to entertain and educate many people for years to come. It would also be a boon to a hugely deprived area. But across the river, there is a separate proposal for an equally entertaining and educational project - an aquarium. This is backed by several prominent naturalists and media stars, and promises a new and clamorous use for lottery cash... It seems that the aquarium has now displaced the rich mix centre in the Commission's affections.

The aquarium may have showbiz on its side, and may well make a lot of money. However it will cost the lottery ten times as much as the rich mix centre, and will not do as much to bring pride to those who live in the area. Moreover the Tower Hamlets plan is the only centre of its kind in the country, while there are already sharks swimming in a tank a few miles upriver at County Hall. Perhaps, in this case the Commission might consider that instead of buying a new supply of Havana cigars. what it needs to do is to invest in yet more port and send a case down to the poor buggers who hardly ever get a sniff of the

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Samuel Michael Fuller, film director: born Worcester, Massachusetts 12 August 1911; married 1965 Christa Lang (one daughter); died Los Angeles 30 October 1997.

"A film is like a battleground. There's love. Hate. Action. Violence. Death. In one word. emotions."

This feisty manifesto, endlessly quoted by cinephiles and adopted as a rallying slogan by a whole generation of directors, was spoken, in English, in Jean-Luc Godard's 1965 masterpiece Pierrot le fou by the American film-maker Samuel Fuller. (Or "Sam" Fuller: although the idea of referring to Wallace Stevens as "Wally", and to Charles Ives as "Charlie" or even. God forbid. "Chuck", would make literary and music critics cringe with embarrassment, Fuller was one of those Hollywood directors others were "Nick" Ray and "Sean" Ford – whose vernacular idiom and buttonholing style appeared to invite buddyboy nickname statius.) The sentiment is not, to be sure, a subtle one. But then, subtlety was never Fuller's forte.

In his movies a spade was almost viscerally present as a spade. Like Dr Johnson refuting the exponents of metaphysical scepticism by subjecting external reality to a hefty kick in the shins, he was prepared not only to call a spade a spade but to slam it into the public's face as an irrefutable demonstration of its physical existence.

It was often said of him - a tabloid reporter before he became a film-maker - that he retained the newspaperman's snooping instinct for a scoop, for a banner headline. The very titles of his movies ap- Fuller's Underworld USA (1960)

peared to scream out for the exclamation marks of a yellow press sensationalism. Listen to them: I Shot Jesse James! Fixed Bayonets! Pick-up on South Street! Hell and High Water! Forty Guns! Verboten! Underworld USA! Shock Corridor! The Naked Kiss! Shark! Dead

Pigeon on Beethoven Street! That demotic plainspokenness, that bluff indifference to the finer sensitivities and genteel felicities of high-art cinema, was undoubtedly the main source of his raw, uncouth strength as a film-maker. He had no scruples about allowing the more or less formulaic piotlines of his genre-inspired work to spiral out in every direction to encompass his characteristically gutsy metaphorising of emotion and violence - of, one might say, emotion as violence.

And he did tend to see the world in primary colours. He once admitted, for example, that he plotted his movies on a blackboard with several different colours of chalk to ensure that the components of action (red), exposition (white)

evenly balanced. Yet there could also be detected in his work an ambiguity that belied this slightly reductive even if self-cultivated

and romance (blue) were all

image as the poet of potboilers or, as the auteurist critic Andrew Sarris once (approvingly) categorised him, "American primitive". That ambiguity was, to begin with, of an ideological nature. Fuller may have been unsubtle as he rode roughshod through the due processes of narrative decorum, but no one who was, as he was, a staunch Democrat all his life yet frequently found himself dismissed as "a right-wing reactionary could be entirely one-dimensional.

It was also aesthetic. Notwithstanding the uncompromisingly tough-guy, cigarchomping posture he affected to adopt, there were many scenes in his work that punctured the myth that a Fuller movie could be everything but moving. A case in point is a celebrated sequence in his late, semi-autobiographical war movie The Big Red One (1979)



Banner headlines: Cliff Robertson and Dolores Dorn in

in which Lee Marvin endeavours to comfort a dying child, an inmate of the concentration camp that he and his unit have just helped to liberate. Melodramatic yet utterly unmanipulative, it is guaranteed to bring tears to the eyes of spectators. even as tough as the director

Fuller was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, in 1911. At the age of 12 he was employed as a copyboy on the New York Journal and, a mere five years later, became the youngest criminal reporter ever to have written for a major American newspaper. (In 1952 he would pay tribute to that seminal period of his life in Park Row, whose title denotes the area in New York that was the exact equivalent of London's Fleet Street.)

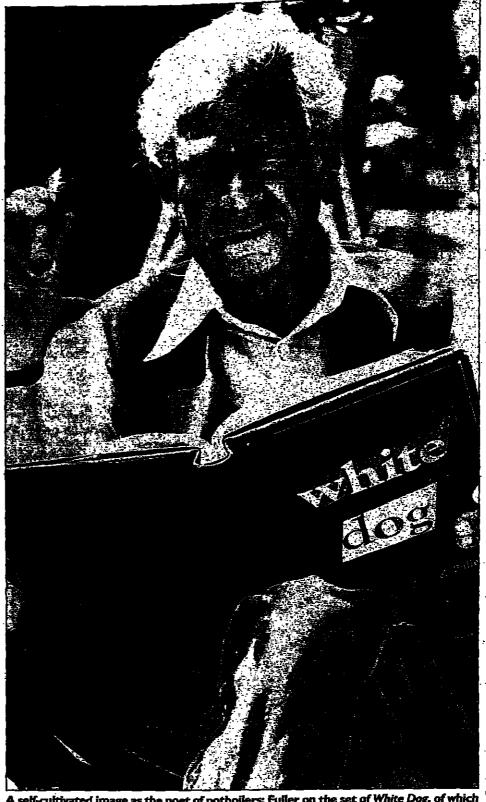
Unemployed in the depressed Thirties, he "lit out for the country" in true Huck Firm fashion, wandering the American hinterland by illegally hitching rides on freight trains. Simultaneously, he entered the temple of the arts by the tradesman's entrance, writing and publishing short stories for magazines and, in 1935, the first of several pulpy novels, Burn Baby Burn. (It is actually not too

There was a brief screenwriting stint, mostly of Bmovies, in the Hollywood of the inter-war years, followed by quite exceptionally distinguished service in the Second World War, during which he fought in North Africa and Europe and received the Bronze Star, the Silver Star and a Purple Heart, then a return to Hollywood in 1949 to write and direct the first of his 22 films. This was I Shot Jesse James, a low-budget version of the ultrafamiliar western legend narrated - with the perversity

which would soon be recognised as Fulier's trademark from the killer's point of view.

Thereafter, as writer, producer and director of most of his movies - their auteur complet, as his French admirers would define him - he brought his controversial, pugnacious "touch" to all of Hollywood's more overtly virile genres. He made westerns (The Baron of Arizona, 1950, Forty Guns, 1957, Run of the Arrow, also 1957), war movies (Fixed Bayoneis and The Steel Helmet, both shot in 1951, China Gate, 1957, Merrill's Marauders, 1962), thrillers (the viciously auti-Communist Pickup on South Street, 1953, House of Bamboo, 1955, The Naked Kiss, 1964, and Dead Pigeon on Beethoven Street, 1972, the last not likely to be forgotten by anybody who has seen it for its extraordinarily violent shootout in a maternity hospital). By contrast, he never, wisely, attempted a comedy, a romantic melodrama or a musical.

In his later years he settled in Paris, where he had long been the object of a cult. There he directed a couple of forgettable French-language thrillers and made personal appearances in the works of those younger film-makers who had regularly championed him, Godard, Dennis Hopper, Luc Moullet and, on four separate occasions, Wim Wenders. For Wenders he acted in The American Friend (1977), Hammett (1982), The State of Things (also 1982) and, this year, The End of Violence, a film in which, alas, his own approaching end - and equally the end of the cinema that he personified, the cinema of what might be called "purple imagery" (as we say "purple prose") ~ is all too



A self-cultivated image as the poet of potboilers: Fuller on the set of White Dog, of which Phtograph: Ronald Grant Archive he was co-writer as well as director, 1982

#### H. C. Coombs

Herbert Cole Coombs, economist and public servant: born Kalamunda, Western Australia 24 February 1906; married 1931 Mary Ross (three sons, one daughter); died Sydney 29 October 1997.

H. C. Coombs was probably the most outstanding civil servant Australia has produced, but he will be remembered for being more than a civil servant. His influence touched almost every aspect of Australian life since the Second World War: the economy, banking, education,

the arts and, most profoundly, the advancement of Aborigines.

Coombs served seven prime ministers, from John Curtin during the Second World War to Gough Whitlam in the 1970s. Bob Hawke, who became prime minister during Coombs's retirement in the 1980s, said of him: "He was one of the most important Australians this century. I don't think there was any white Australian who gave a more continuing, practical commitment to the Aboriginal

One of the most prominent public figures over four decades, he was always referred to

TODAY: Mr Umberto Agnelli,

deputy chairman of Fiat, 63; Sir Hugh Bidwell, former Lord Mayor of Lon-

formally as Dr H.C. Coombs, but few Australians could say what those initials stood for. He was more widely known as "Nugget" Coombs because of his short stature and determined gait (he was 5ft 3in tall). Coombs was a singular bridge between the old, predominantly Anglo-Celtic Australia and the multicultural post-war society that has opened its eyes, prompted partly by his efforts, to the plight of its indigenous people.

His father's itinerant job as a station master took him as a child around the vast state of Western Australia, where he was born near Perth, the capi-

tal, in 1906. Later, as a young teacher in outback schools, Coombs saw the problems of Aborigines at first hand and turned their correction into a lifelong crusade. The Depression of the Thirties provided the other abiding influence in his life: economics. After in a scholarship to the London School of Economics and completed his doctorate there in 1933, he became a disciple of John Maynard Keynes, whose book General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money (1936) Coombs described as

"the most seminal intellectual

event" of his time.

Coombs had plenty of scope to apply the Keynesian underpinnings of big government when he returned to Australia. The wartime Labor government made him head of postwar reconstruction, a role in which he helped to shape the and public spending on tertiary education and infrastructure that were features of the economic prosperity of the Fifties.

At the age of 42, he was appointed Governor of the Commonwealth Bank, then the central bank, and became the first governor of its successor. the Reserve Bank, 12 years lat-

helped to set up the Australian National University, now an élite research institution, and to inaugurate some of the publicly funded arts bodies that have transformed Australia's culfounding chairman of the Council for Aboriginal Affairs. Coombs is rightly regarded as a father of modern Australia.

Although some conservatives regarded him as a socialist, Coombs's great professional achievement was to retain the respect of the prime ministers from both sides of politics who

er. In the intervening years, he called on his advice and skills. Equally, the Aborigines respected him, as they did few whites of his rank, for his willingness to sit down in the dust with them, as he did on his many visits to outback comtural scene over the past 30 munities, and spend hours lis-

Aboriginal affairs became Coombs's overriding passion after he retired formally from public life. He was one of the first to describe publicly as "genocide" the impact on Aborigines of white occupation of Australia from 1788. In speeches before a stroke left him in poor health two years ago, he

continued to slam the "betrayal" of the Aborigines and the "sell-out" of the intelligentsia who, he said, had become "instruments of the corporate A quiet en

"Nugget" Coombs was one of the few whites to be adoptthe Yolgnu people of Arnhem Land, in the Northern Territory. They called him Dhumbul Bapa, or "Short Father". The Aborigines have asked to bonour Coombs in a traditional way at the state funeral which the Australian government has offered his family.

– Robert Milliken

#### BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

BIRTHS

SAUNDERS: To Joanne (née Williams) and Jeffrey, a son, Rufus William Thomas, on 22 October 1997 at home, a brother for Dillan.

WILSON: Ruth Elsa Maria (nee Gustafson in Alingsas, Sweden). Peacefully in her sleep on 27 October 1997 after a bad illa ess frome with per 1997 after a oad umess come with great courage, aged 84. Beloved wid-ow of Frank, loving mother to John/ Jack and Anita and caring grand-mother and great-grandother. The funeral service will be beld at 12 noon on Wednesday 5 November at the Methodist Church in Wattington, Octavities Centil Research only Oxfordshire. Family flowers only please. Donations to the British heart Foundation, or any enquiries, should be addressed to Tomalin & Son, 38 Reading Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 LAG; telephone 01491 573370.

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOORD: A Service of Thanksgiving for the live of Anthony Foord DFC will be held on Thursday 20 November 1997 at 2pm in Aldeburgh Parish

Amountements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Birchs, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London Elf SDL, telephoned to 0771-293 2012 or faxed to 0771-293 2012 or faxed to 0771-293 2012 or faxed to 1650 a line 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAI extra). OTHER Gazette as-nouncements (notices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at 400 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime triephone mamber. Birthdays

don, 63; Professor Sir Hermann Bondi, former Master of Churchill College, Cambridge, 78; Admiral Sir John Bush, 83; Miss Victoria de los Angeles, soprano, 74; Mr Nigel Dempster, newspaper diarist, 56; Mr Michael Denison, actor, 82; Mr George Dobry, former circuit judge, 79; Mr Lou Donaldson, alto saxophonist, 71: Miss Tazeena Firth, stage designer, 62; Mr Bruce Grocott MP, 57; Lord Harmar-Nicholls, former MP, 85; Mr Alec Higgins, un-der-riter, 83; Mr David Hobson, former senior partner, Coopers and Lybrand, 75; Sir Wynn Hugh-Jones, former diplomat, 74; Mr Roger Kellaway, popular composer and pi-anist, 58; Mr Andrew Knight, former executive chairman, News Interna-tional, 58; Dr J. Dickson Mabon, former government minister, 72; Miss Naomi Mitchison, novelist, 100; Mr Nick Owen, journalist and broad-caster, 50; Mr Gary Player, golfer, 62; Mr John Pullen, rogby player, 56; Mr James Ramsden, insurance company director and former Governm nister, 74; Mr Gerald Ratner, former chairman, Ratners, 48.

TOMORROW: Lord Ashburton, former chairman, Barings, 69; The Earl of Aylesford, former Lord-Lieutenant of the West Midlands re-gion, 79; Lady Bathurst, former diplomat, 77; Sir David Calcutt QC, former Master, Magdalene College, Cambridge, 67; Sir Clifford Chetwood, chairman, Chetwood Associates, 69; Mr Keith Emerson, rock musician, 53; The Right Rev Philip Goodrich, former Bishop of Worcester, 68; Mr Desmond Hamill, television reporter, 61; Dr Ronald Hedley, former Director, Natural History Museum, 69; Mr Paul Johnson, author and editor, 69; Mr Alan Jones, grand prix driver, 51; Mr David Lea, Assistant General Sec-

retary, TUC, 60; Sir Bruce Martin QC, former Chairman, North West-ern Regional Health Authority, 59; Miss Juliet Milk, actress, 56; Ms Julie Morgan MP, 53; Mr Denis Murphy MP, 49; Dame Pauline Neville-Jones, ing director, Nat West Markets 58; Sir Peter Newsam, former Di-rector, London Institute of Education, 69; Sir Ronald Oxburgh, Rector. Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, 63; Professor Norman Pye, geographer, 84; Mr Ken Rosewall, tennis player, 63; Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover, former chairman of Sainsbury's, 70; Mr Bruce Welch, rock

**Anniversaries** TODAY: Births: Benvenuto Celli-

ni, sculptor and goldsmith, 1500; Pietro da Cortona, painter and ar-chitect, 1596; Sir Matthew Hale, Chief Justice and law reformer. 1609; Antonio Canova, sculptor, 1757; Spencer Perceval, prime minister, 1762; Laurence Stephen Lowry, primitive painter, 1887; Edmund Charles Blunden, scholar and poet, 1896. Deaths: Salomon van Ruys-dael, painter, buried 1670; John Radcliffe, physician and founder of the Radcliffe Library, Oxford, 1714; Ezra Loomis Pound, poet. 1972; Phil Silvers, comedian and actor, 1985. On this day: the Bank of Scot-land was founded, 1695; 60,000 people died when Lisbon was destro by an earthquake, 1755; the first W.H. Smith bookstall opened, Euston Sta-tion 1848; the British Television service was inaugurated, 1936; the first section of the M1 motorway was opened, 1959; East Germany opened its border with Czechoslovakia, 1989. Today is the Feast Day of All Saints, St Austremonius or Stremoine, St Benigmus of Dijon, St Cadfan, Saints Caesarius and Julian, St Marcellus of Paris, St Mary, martyr, Si Mathurin or Maturinus and St

TOMORROW: Births: Victor Thomas Trumper, cricketer, 1877; Luchino Visconti, Duca di Modrone film director, 1906; Burt Lancaster (Burton Stephen Lancaster), actor. 913. Deaths: Richard Hooker, the ologian, 1600; Jenny Lind (Johanna Maria), soprano, 1887; George Bernard Shaw, playwright, 1950; Leo Baeck, reform rabbi, 1956; James Grover Thurber, humorous writer and cartoonist, 1961. On this day: the Morning Post newspaper was first published, 1772; Ladysmith, in Natal, South Africa, was besieged by the Boers, 1899; the Daily Mirror wa first published, as a daily newspaper for women, 1903; Russia declared war on Turkey, 1914; Lord Balfour made his Declaration regarding a Jewish national home in Palestine, 1917, the world's first regular broadcasting station, KDKA Pittsburgh, started transmitting, 1920; the first crossword puzzie to appear in a British news-paper was published in the Sunday Express, 1924; Haile Sclassie was crowned as Emperor of Ethiopia, 1930; the book publisher Penguin was acquitted of obscenity in the matter of publishing the book Lady Chat-terley's Lover, 1960; Channel Four television was started, 1982. Tomorrow is the Feast Day of All Souls, St Marcian of Cyrrhus and St

Victorinus of Pettau. **Trinity College of Music** Lord Putmam was guest of honour at a presentation ceremony held by Trimity College of Music yesterday at St John's Smith Square, London SW1. Houorary Fellowship of the cullege was conferred upon Lord Thylor of Gosforth (posthumous award), Mr Dennis Scard, Ms Diana Burrell, Dr Marion North and Mr Iaan Wil-son, Miss Frances Blois, Deputy Lord Mayor of Westminster, Mr Paul Strang, Chairman of the Corporation and Board of Trinity College, and the Principal, Mr Gavin Henderson.

FAITH & REASON

#### A 'royal peculiar' and not good for nothing

Elton john's performance at the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales was only part of a growing tendency to secularise services in Christian churches. But, asks Andrew Brown, has the trend now gone too far?

A private member's question has been put down for the next meeting of the General Synod asking whether the funeral service of Diana, Princess of Wales in Westminster Abbey was in fact legal.

This looks like pure mischiefmaking, especially when you consider that it comes from one of the leaders of Forward in Faith, a body which plans eventually to erupt to freedom from within the Church of England like the creature in Alien. But, like all the best jokes, the question illuminates a serious point more sharply than any amount of seriousness could do. In this case, the serious question behind the frivolous one is whether the Church of England did not sacrifice too much of the Christian content of the funeral

This was epitomised by what one might call the Elton John problem: the Church of England may be running short of many things, but surely it is still selfsufficient in gay organ players, and probably even in agnostic gay organists. Why should it have imported one for this most solemn and public ceremony? The answer, of course, is that Elton John appealed far more directly to the emotions of the audience than any of the magnificent art that the Church can draw on. It should be said certainly not the most offensive piece of tian, and in one passage it was directly kitsch on display: even the extraordinary unchristian. Diana, he said, was too huwrithing snivel he used to deliver his song man to have been a saint. But the whole was far less artificial and off-putting than point about saints is that they are human, the smarm of the BBC's announcer inside

Elton John's performance, then, however little it had to do with any Christian message, was surely the right choice for the Church of England to make. If the authorities had tried to stop it they would not only have appeared unfeeling and out of touch, they would have been so. Outside of a theocracy, any funeral (or wedding, or baptism) is going to be full of natural, unchurched sentiments: a friend of mine once took a funeral at which one end of the chapel was occupied by a floral arrangement, five feet long, which spelt out the single word "bollocks". At another, he found himself confronted by a threefoot-high floral model of a packet of Embassy and a cup of tea: doubly fitting, since

cigarettes had killed the departed. All these seem to me to be perfectly legitimate examples of the way in which the Church must expand its traditional language in order to communicate with the world outside, or only partially inside. But there must be limits. If someone is to have a funeral in church, rather than at Stonehenge or down the crem, he must also speak some of the church's language, and the argument, made by a large number of people who wish the Church of England well, and not just by its enemies, is that too much was conceded in the Westminster Abbey service.

There was no sermon, for example. Earl Spencer's magnificent piece of scoresettling was much better theatre than anything the Archbishop of Canterbury

The argument, then, is not that Lord Spencer should not have spoken; only that there should have been some recognisably Christian message delivered after his. This turns out to be a matter of manners rather than law: Westininster Abbey is a "royal peculiar": one of those churches directly under the control of the 50% ereign. So if she wanted the service she had, or if Prince Charles decides he wants a homeopathic coronation, it is all legal, and the Dean remains as poweriess against the Royal Family as the Crown Appointments Commission is against Tony

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There are sensible justifications for what was actually done: it is difficult to argue that the Church of England would have gained more respect if Dr Carey bad preached than it gained by his stages largely silent. Those parish priests within I have asked about the issue mostly that that the splendours of the ceremonial carried to the general public the message that the Church was good for something; as say that, even if the public did not que gather what that something was, it was all better than supposing the Church go for nothing. But others were shocked and will remain so.

Still, worse things happen at other nerals every week: one priest remarks that at least the coffin had not left at abbey, as one of his had left the cree torium, to the strains of "The Best Life Whorehouse in Texas".

in his defence that his performance was might have said; but it was not very Chris. . . 'Faith & Reason' is edited by Paul Valle.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS TODAY: Prince Edward, Trustee and Chairman of the International Council, attends the Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association's Forum in Wellington. New Zealand. The Princess Royal, President, the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, visits Card Carers Centre, Silk Street, Paisley, Glasgow, visits the Uni-versity of Paisley in its Centenary and lays

a foundation stone for a new library, High Street, Parsley: opens a new Royal Sailors' Rest, "Bracholm", East Montrose Street, Helensburgh, Danbartonshire; visits Primess Louise Scottlah Hospital (Erskine Hospital), Bishopton, Renfrewalure; and as President, the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, holds a Dinner and Reception on board HMY Britannia, Glasgow. TOMORROW: The Princess Royal,

President, the Princess Royal Trust for Car-ers, Januches the North and West Glasgow Carers Centre's Information Pack at Jury's Glasgow Hotel, Great Western Road, and visits the North and West Glasgow Carers Centre, Great Western Road, Glasgow, as President, Save the Children Fund, at-tends a Reception for Volumeers, Children and Young People and other Supporters on board HMY Britannia, Glasgow.

Changing of the Guard TODAN: The Household Cavalry Mount-ed Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards; 11am; No. 7 Company Coldstream Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham palace, 11 Mam. TOMORROW: The Household Cavairy Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 10am.

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source: Bloomberg

# A quiet end to a dramatic week for resilient Footsie

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN STOCK MARKET REPORTER

OF THE YEAR

A traumatic week of thrills and fashioned robust trading. spills ended quietly with Footsie achieving a 40.4 points gain to 4,842.3. Trading was, however, decidedly thin with many investors still unsettled by Tuesday's turmoil.

Once again the stock market was spellbound by New York. Early falls evaporated once it became clear the Dow Jones Average would open with a swing.

In what has been a week of confusion, Footsie has fallen 127.9, a far more resilient outcome than seemed likely when shares were in free-fall with the index off a 457.9, its biggest points fall.

It was almost as if the market was so relieved with the peaceful atmosphere which rounded off a chaotic week that it did not want to tempt tion, is also thought to have

Turnover was an unexciting 580.8 million shares.

National Westminster Bank's rejection of the suspected Deutsche Morgan Grenfell hid for its equities and research op-43p to 857p. The terms were try to improve its perfornot revealed but DMG said it mance. would not increase its offer.

1,493p. CreditSuisse First dropped out of the race and another US group, Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette, at one building society-cum-bank. time thought to be in the run-

M&G, the unit trust group ened 3.75p to 422.75p. Las- 1.615p peak. There is talk of the speculation but said Oman which has sadly underperformed the market, found it-Banks attracted attention. self the focus of takeover 9p to 275p.

speculation. The shares rose 47.5p to 1,205p. Halifax, off 10p to 675p, was the rumoured predator. M&G recently unerations caught the market on dertook a reorganisation of its the hop with Nat West tumbling trusts to counter criticism and

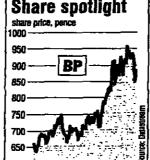
Halifax is thought to be Barclays slipped 5p to keen to flex its muscles. A move into unit trusts could well Boston emerged as the appeal to the acquisitive aspifavourite to capture its up-for- rations of the Halifax mansale securities side, BZW. agement. M&G, which made Bankers Trust of New York profits of £64.5m last year, is valued at around £900m, an easy enough swallow for the

British Petroleum, ahead of ning for the NatWest opera- third-quarter figures next week, gained 10.5p to 876p. fate by indulging in anything cooled over the Barclays off- Shell, also on the third-quar-

mo's Libyan oil strike was re-

British Biotech, once the heart-throb of the biotech in- prove marketability. dustry, had another unsettling session. The shares were at one time down to 96p. They closed off 1p at 101.5p, a year's low.

JD Wetherspoon, the pubs chain, jumped 32.5p to a



bid action but the strength of already had Challenger 2 tanks sponsible for adding a further the shares could be in anticiand admitted: "There have pation of this month's five-forone share split which will im-

> Greenalls, up 16.5p to 353p, enjoyed revived takeover speculation and talk of asset

> Redland, the building materials group which has rejected the advances of Lafarge, the French group, rose 9p to 340p. Graham, a builders merchant regarded as a likely bid target, gained 11p

to 164p. Vickers, the defence group car business up for sale, purred ahead 6p to 228p on specula- as providing protection against major tank deal. Oman is said to be near to agreeing a £100m order for Challenger 2 tanks. unchallenged days of 1995, are

been discussions about further

The day after the celebratory AIM dinner, one of the iunior market's constituents blotted its copybook with a profits warning. Total Office. providing office systems,

slumped 44p to 82.5p.

Memory Corporation, the computer group, added 5p to 45p following a deal with a Taiwanese concern which has an option on Memory shares at 38.5p. The Taiwan group will use the Microlock chip, which which has put its Rolls-Royce is difficult to switch between computers. Microlock is seen tion it has nearly clinched a chip theft. Stockbroker Beeson Gregory think the shares, which hit 547.5p in the heady,

TAKING STOCK Text 100, a technology spe-

cialist public relations consultancy headed by Tom Lewis, held at 39.5p on Ofex. It is due to report its first yearly results since arriving on the fringe market in March. There is talk profits have climbed more than 20 per cent to around £1.2m. The shares were floated at 30p. Text, with BT and Microsoft among its clients, is thinking in terms of a full listing, possibly within two

It has not taken VNU, the Dutch publishing group, long to increase its stake in Freepages, the business directory group. On Tuesday it picked up 4.47 per cent; now it has moved to 10 per cent. The two have trading links; in September they launched Freepages Scoot consumer information service in Hol-





# Taylor Woodrow chief leaves after five months

Taylor Woodrow, the property and construction group, has parted company with its chief executive, who has spent just five months in the job. The departure of John Castle, the first outside chief executive at Taylor

Woodrow in its 75-year history, has resulted from a "fundamental incompatibility" between him and the rest of the board. Nigel Cope, City Correspondent reports.

Taylor Woodrow said Mr Castle had resigned by mutual agreement and left the company with immediate effect. It appears that Mr Castle, who joined the company in June, had failed to build a good working relationship with the group's divisional directors. The non-executive directors, led by Sir Kit McMahon, the former chairman of Midland Bank, agreed it was belter to take early action than let the personality clash worsen. The company said Mr Castic's departure was not due to a dispute over future strategy.

Mr Castle was on a salary of £225,000 a year and is in line for a pay-off of equivalent to 1.8 times salary. This means he stands to make almost £500,000 for five

tive who had moved up to executive chairman, will take over as acting chief executive until a replacement can be found. Sir Kit will become deputy chairman. Sir Kit said:

"I'm afraid it recently became clear to the wasn't working and it was better to solve the problem now rather than later. We realised that he was unable to build the sort of relationships with his fellow directors that a chief executive needs."

Mr Parsons attempted to limit the 1985. damage of the boardroom fall-out in the excellent financial health and is anticipating another year of steadily improving results as indicated at the time of the recent interim results".

Mr Castle joined Taylor Woodrow after spells with Marley, the building materials group, and the American conglomerate, Textron. He had met the divisional directors prior to taking up the post and it appeared there was a brief "honeymoon period" of a month to six weeks, during which the board got along well.

But shortly after this, the non-executives became aware that relations were becoming strained.

The company denied any rift between Mr Castle and Mr Parsons, who had been chief executive of Taylor Wooodrow for five years from 1992 and had helped turn a

Colin Parsons, the former chief execu- £94m loss into a £67m profit. The group also dismissed speculation that the board had found it hard to adapt to an external appointment after 75 years of promoting

Mr Castle had joined with the intention non-executives that John's appointment of reducing Taylor Woodrow's construction operations to make it a housing and property group with modest interests in construction rather than the other way around. The construction business has averaged a return on sales of less than 1 per cent since

He was under pressure to improve the City by saying that Taylor Woodrow was in group's meagre net returns of just 6 per cent on its annual sales of £1.2bn.

In September Taylor Woodrow reported a 43 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £36.2m for the six months to June.

Some analysts said that Mr Castle may have felt constrained from taking the radical action some in the City were calling for due to the continued presence on the board of Mr Parsons. Mr Castle said he was in favour of evolution rather than revolution.

One of the ironies of Mr Castle's departure is that on the mantelpiece in his Mayfair office he kept a homily which read: "The Trap: to continue to do the same thing and expect a different outcome." After just 22 weeks in the job, this was certainly not

the outcome he was expecting. Taylor Woodrow shares closed 0.5p



John Castle: stands to make almost £500,000 from his brief stay at Taylor

#### Fireworks yet to come, says Redland chairman

Rudolph Agnew, chairman of Redland, the building materials group under siege from a £1.7bn takeover bid by Lafarge of France, shrugged off criticism that his defence document published yesterday was a nonevent, saying that the fireworks were yet to

The document, which attacked Lafarge's 320p-a-share hostile cash offer as an attempt to get Redland "on the cheap," consisted largely of a dry list of Redland's assets. The document also confirmed that, despite the jump in Redland's share price since Lafarge's bid, none of Redland's directors will make significant sums from the bid.

Mr Agnew, who took the opportunity to launch a withering attack on Bertrand Collomb, Lafarge's chief executive, said that it was important to highlight Redland's businesses: "It reminds shareholders of the value of our assets."

He said he was keeping his powder dry: "You should never reveal your best arguments in the first document."

Mr Agnew played down an earlier state-ment that Redland has received expressions of interest from a "double digit" number of potential bidders for its aggregates businesses. "We have a lot of suitors, but we don't know yet if they are real or what they have in mind"

Mr Agnew said Redland was in discuss sions with minority shareholders who own 43.5 per cent of RBB, Redland's German based roof tiles business. He said the shareholders, the largest of which is the Braas family trust, headed by Redland not executive director Helly Bruhn-Braas would "love to buy RBB". However, he say it was a question of "what price and what form any offer would take".

Mr Agnew was scathing about Mr Collomb's comments that the defence was jam at some unidentifiable date

ing to talk just about its global equity "They've got their quotes all wiring again, poor dears," said Mr Agnew. "Jain is just what shareholders want."

Mr Collomb called the defence a fee vague promises, adding: "Shareholders want cash and there are no alternative offices."

Howard Proctor, analyst at SOST saids Lafarge's offer was "a sighting shot". "They [NatWest] are going to have to Others said a white-knight bidder for the

#### NatWest shares dip after it spurns DMG's global equities offer

National Westminster shares tumbled yesterday at news that it had spurned a bid from Deutsche Morgan Grenfell for parts of NatWest Markets. Pressure is mounting on the company to make a definitive statement on the future of its beleaguered investment banking arm reports Lea Paterson.

The bank announced yesterday that it had turned down an "unsolicited approach" from DMG, the investment banking arm of Frankfurt-based Deutsche Bank, for its global equities business.

"NatWest has decided that Deutsche Morgan Grenfell's proposal is not in the best interest of its shareholders or its employees", it said in a statement.

NatWest balked at the price offered by Deutsche Bank. According to one insider, Deutsche's offer was "far below" the £300m price tag put on NatWest's equity business by some analysts.

"The reasons our discussions broke

down were price and strategy," admitted division, part of embattled investment investment bank, NatWest had been "will-Michael Philipp, head of DMG's global equity division, adding that DMG's bid was "certainly not above" £300m.

"We are not changing our price. We are happy with our analysis," he said. NatWest stressed yesterday that the bid was "unsolicited", yet discussions between

the two parties have been taking place for that NatWest is perceived to be consider-Mr Philipp said: "We approached them (Nat West) informally four to six weeks ago,

We entered formal discussions about two

weeks ago." DMG is understood to have

banking subsidiary NatWest Markets, on Thursday afternoon.

broke that it had spurned DMG's offer. Shares closed at 857p, down 43p on the day. Mark Hogey, analyst at Credit Suisse First Boston, said: "The City is disappointed

ing bids purely for its equity business." Another analyst added: "A lot of people were looking for NatWest Markets to be sold as a stand-alone business."

Mr Philipp confirmed that, in contrast made a formal offer for the global equities to its rival Barclays which owns the BZW

division". He said that DMG was not interested in buying BZW because Barclays NatWest's share price fell as news was unwilling to sell only the equities Pressure is growing on NatWest to fol-

low the example set by Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays, and to make a definitive statement about NatWest Markets'

do something decisive. The fact that they whole company was unlikely. Redland's haven't makes senior management look shares closed 9p higher at 340p. directionless," said one analyst yesterday.

#### French utili buyer for La

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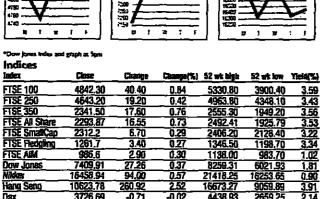
clusive terms with BSkyB-On Demand is adamsni that rights from three studios would be sufficient to set up a rom-

pay-per-view offering. When news of the winner and Columbia deals broke analysts were encouraged that the cable industry had stated to challenge BSkyB's programming monopoly by highing its own Hollywood rights which

secure on an exclusive has However, the exposer of cracks in the On Deman al-

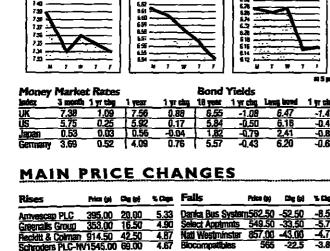
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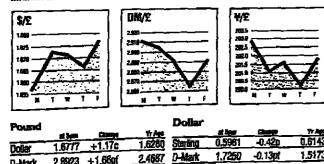


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#### **INTEREST RATES**



#### CURRENCIES



#### OTHER INDICATORS

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#### Uneasy calm descends on South-east Telewest talks with Asia as IMF grants aid to Indonesia

After the Hong Kong market survived one of the most turbulent weeks in its history, observers are wondering whether the turmoil will leave bodies scattered around the financial community. Separately, the IMF has agreed to pump billions of dollars into Indonesia to shore up the country's battered economy and currency. Stephen Vines in Hong Kong reports.

There is talk in Hong Kong of broking houses being forced into mergers to stay affoat and of fund managers bracing themselves to report borrendous losses. However, as yet, there is no more than rumour to go on. Only one major financial institution has decided to tackle the rumours in public - Peregrine Investment Holdings, the wellconnected and spectacularly fast-growing Hong Kong-based investment bank.

Early in the week it took out

ments to announce that "rumours of losses by Peregrine running into hundreds of millions of US dollars and of Peregrine's financial demise are completely false".

However, the company admitted it had been hit hard in its equities and fixed-income divisions, with profits falling by 58 per cent and 42 per cent respectively in the period from 1 January to 24 October.

Other investment houses have responded to the crisis by retreating from public view. Eventually, the extent of the damage will be clear.

One banker, working for a European company, said: "It's hard to tell how bad things are. A lot of these guys had big positions in the stock markets and were speculating like hell in currencies. It is impossible to believe that, as these markets took a dive, none of them got hurt, even if they climbed back after a bit of recovery."

Following a week of excitement, which some marketmakers would dearly like to forget, yesterday proved relatively uneventful. The Hong Kong stock market rose by a modest 2.5 per cent, a figure which would be impressive else-

where but meant little in a market which has seen doubledigit percentage swings throughout the week.

The rise was largely due to testimony given yesterday in the legislature by Joseph Yam, the head of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, who admitted that the territory's de facto central bank had been in the market buying Hong Kong dollars to defend the currency's fixed link to the US dollar.

However he stated that the authority had got back all the Hong Kong dollars it sold and actually ended up with more foreign currency in the reserves because it had also been playing hard ball in fixing overnight inter-bank interest rates at very high levels, forcing speculators who had taken short positions in the market to cover these positions at high cost, which meant buying back Hong Kong dollars.

Mr Yam declared that the overnment's defence of the Hong Kong dollar had been a success. Share traders took heart from this statement, which fuelled a flurry of business in the afternoon trading session.

The blue-chip Hang Seng index ended the week less than 5 per cent down while the two

indices tracking China-related stocks posted comfortable gains. This was not the case in

South Korea, which is shaping up to be the next trouble spot in Asian markets. Heavy intervention by the central bank to prop up the ailing Korean won only succeeded in stabilising the currency's decline. Meanwhile, Indonesia will

receive \$23bn (£13.7bn) in assistance from the International Monetary Fund and other monetary organisations in exchange for its pledge to restructure its financial sector. Michel Camdessus, managing director of the IMF, said the three-year aid package was designed to shore up the rupiah.

The package will be supplemented by a back-up facility that includes \$3bn from the US and additional funding from Australia, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia and Singapore.

Indonesia will reform its banking and financial industry and scrap monopolies held by the government's Bureau of Logistics on food items such as soy, wheat, garlic and flour. The government will also agree to a three-year "tight" monitoring of its economy by the IMF.

Market report, page 25

#### Scottish Hydro set to reject Littlechild's price formula

Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, is facing renewed confrontation with the industry over his "final" price controls for next year. At least one supplier, Scottish Hydro-Electric, is poised to reject the regime, risking a lengthy investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The company's board will meet next week to decide its for-

mal response to the plans but

executives have warned pri-

vately that they could not accept

the formula "unconditionally".

Another supplier, one of the

iargest regional electricity com-

panies (RECs), also said yesterday it was concerned about signing a "blank cheque". Scottish Hydro remains un-

happy with the amount of cash Professor Littlechild has allowed the industry to spend to introduce domestic competition next year. The formula allows for a combined total of £500m to be added to customer bills to fund computer systems, but the companies had previously asked to pass through £850m. Scottish Hydro would only be able to recover about half the £60m it says it is spending to prepare for 1998.

assume that the companies have already legally agreed some of the technical arrangements for the introduction of competition, when many have yet to be finalised. Scottish Hydro believes it would be difficult to accept the new licences before these arrangements are in place, a process which could

New operating licences also

take several more weeks. The companies were given until 14 November to accept or reject the proposals, but the regulator has said he is unlikely to alter the package. However, the companies believe Professor

Littlechild could not afford to risk a probe by the MMC, which could delay the opening up of the domestic market next April. A spokesman for Offer, the watchdog, said it was still in discussions with the companies. The final price formula

would see an average £270 residential power bill drop by 9 per cent over two years from next April. It has caused controversy because the 12 RECs and two Scottish supply companies would not be able to pass through higher generation costs to consumers.

- Chris Godsmark

# BSkyB undermine Hollywood deals

rival film services from BSkyB. Cathy Newman reports that the move undermines the cable industry's attempts to break BSkyB's monopoly on programming. Telewest's overtures to BSkyB have been made despite the company's involvement with On Demand Management, a consortium negotiating deals

**Telewest Communi-**

the cable industry's

cations, which is leading

negotiations for pay-per-

view movie rights with

Hollywood studios, has

held talks about taking

mond Cable Communications. Although On Demand has already signed deals with Warner Brothers and Columbia Tristar, City analysts say the chances of the cable companies' pay-perview scheme taking off have been irrevocably damaged by Cable & Wireless Communications' decision to break away from the rest of the industry and take BSkyB's pay-per-view of-fering. C&WC is expected to agree terms within a week.

with Hollywood studios. The

consortium comprises Telewest,

NTL, General Cable and Dia-

Stephen Davidson, chief executive of Telewest, confirmed last night that talks with BSkyB on pay-per-view had taken place but had failed to reach a conclusion. He said: "We have spoken in

the past on and off at length about taking BSkyB's pay-perview services. But in the past few months, we've had no discussions about this. "We're absolutely committed

to launching our own pay-perview service. The board is right behind us on this." However, another cable industry source said BSkyB was determined to persuade other cable operators to take its films service: "BSkyB goes after... everybody. It's a divide and conquer issue.".

BSkyB sources said that other cable operators involved in On Demand, such as NTL, had also had talks about taking; BSkyB's service. However, NTL denied this suggestion last night. Steven Wagner, group managing director of NIL, said: "We've had absolutely no discussions with BSkyB over taking their pay-per-view service. We have our own viable payper-view platform." NTL is in merger talks with Telepest, although the discussions are said

to be proceeding slowly BSkyB has secured deals with several Hollywood studios. Apart from Universal Studios. Warner Brothers and Columbia Tristar, the studios are thought to be in favour of agreeing ex-

petitive alternative to BSkyB's

its own Hollywood rights which BSkyB had originally aimed to

liance will add to sceptism about whether the cable idustry's own service will take off.

events, where customers to view a specific film or specing fixture, have been negotited solely by BSkyB and lave mainly been confined to bring events. But digital televisit will enable cable and satelli sempanies to offer near-vice-ondemand

هكذا من الاصل



**JEREMY** WARNER ON RAPID GROWTH IN TELEPHONE USAGE AND A NEW BOOK ON THE GUINNESS AFFAIR

# Britain's telecoms revolution has only just begun

It was reported recently that around one-tenth of British Telecom's local telephone traffic is now generated by use of the Internet. While this figure may be a little exaggerated, Internet usage is undoubtedly growing at an astonishing rate - around 10 to 15 per cent per month compound according to some estimates. In time, this and other forms of data transmission will revolutionise the revenue base of telecommunications in Britain.

According to research commissioned by Energis, the National Grid's telecommunications company, the Internet market in Britain was worth around £300m last year in terms of cost of service provision and telecommunications. Schema, the consultancy which undertook the research, reckons this will nearly double in 1997-98, rising to at least £2bn by 2005. The importance of this type of business for telecommunications companies is that people tend to spend a lot longer with the meter running while wired to the net than they do gassing on the telephone.

The average Internet call is 40 minutes against less than 10 for an ordinary local telephone call. Telephone usage in Europe is still much lower than it is in the US despite the best efforts of BT and others to change things. All those BT advertisements about how good it is to talk have economics of the business, tilting the bal- in the way of juicy detail on the scandal-

Hoskins hasn't worked, the Internet the network providers. might be about to succeed.

ing telephone traffic to grow at more aggressive rates. In the US last year, some \$150bn worth of goods and services were sold via 0800 freephone numbers. These now account for around 40 per cent of AT&T's total revenues. Unfortunately for Joe Public, the 0800 number is not actually free. The businesses that use these numbers pay for them, and that cost is eventually oncharged to the customers who buy their services. But it is a different way of paying for telecommunications and the effect has

been greatly to enhance telephone use. Another avenue of payment already in use in some Scandinavian countries and being market tested here in Britain is for the customer to be offered a free phone call in return for listening to a voice advertisement before making the call. The advertiser picks up the tab, but he also sells more product.

If all these new methods of dragging people on to the telephone networks do indeed succeed in significantly increasing usage, then there are clear regulatory implications. Much higher volumes of traffic at present tariffs will transform the

failed to lift it by much. So where Bob ance of advantage violently back towards

Alternative avenues of payment, such Nor is it just the Internet which is caus- as freephone numbers, also provide important openings to new entrants like Energis. Plainly it doesn't make sense for new and relatively small network providers to sell directly to the customer, they don't have the billing systems or the local networks. But by providing businesses with their telecommunications needs they can do the next best thing and tap into the revenues being generated by the end user. Thirteen years after BT was privatised, Britain's telecoms revolution is still gathering pace.

> When the first book on the Guinness affair was published about 10 years ago, Jonathan Guinness, then a non-executive director of the company, wrote a review of it for The Independent which he memorably began with the words: "Le Beaujolais nouveau est arrivé", the intention being to illustrate that the first stab at any history is rarely reliable. Now he's published his own tome on the scandal, Requiem for a Family Business. Unfortunately the wine doesn't

> seem to have gained much in maturity. The most interesting parts of this book concern the pre-Saunders years, although disappointingly there isn't nearly enough

prone nature of the family which then controlled the company. The few indiscretions offered by Mr Guinness are gentle and well-meant ones, but then as Lord Moyne, Jonathan Guinness is now titular head of the family, any more, I guess, would have been too much to expect.

There is also some genuinely fascinating stuff about the establishment of Guinness as an internationally recognised brand. How the family must now be grinding its teeth at the present management's insane plan to abandon the company name in favour of the ridiculous sounding Diageo. And finally Mr Guinness gives an illuminating insight into the decline of a family company as it passed from one generation to the next.

Unfortunately, he doesn't have much that is new to add on the scandal itself. This, too, may not be altogether surprising, for as Mr Guinness points out, the scandal generated more column inches of news, comment and analysis than the Falklands War. Even his first-hand descriptions of Ernest's last months with the company, which ought to be good because he was there, contain much which is now familiar.

So what's Mr Guinness's take on the affair? In the end this is a relatively sympathetic portrayal of Emest Saunders, who Mr Guinness seems genuinely to like. Mr

Guinness stops short of saying the former Guinness chairman did not deserve his fate, but he plainly thinks him badly treated and believes Mr Saunders was made to suffer too much. He also raises, by way of suggestion, that entirely unproven old canard - that the other lot, Argyll (now Safeways), were just as bad but managed to get away with it. No evidence has ever been produced to support this contention so it is pointless trying to offer it by way of mitigation for Mr Saunders. That hasn't stopped Mr Guinness trying.

The Guinness affair is rather in the nature of ancient history now, so why is Mr Guinness still chewing over the entrails? Silly! It is because the scandal is about to be in the news again, with publication of the long-awaited Department of Trade and Industry report on it all. With luck that might help shift a few more copies of Mr Guinness's book. Don't hold your breath on that one either, though. We already know what's in the report, because a draft was leaked to the press some years ago. If anything, the final version is likely to be even more watered down than the first, as the lawyers have got to it since then. Mr Guinness's account, which is as much about the passing of his family's involvement in the company as the scandal itself, may yet upstage the inspectors.



For sale: A list of self-off options for the Tube has been drawn up by Price Waterhouse

#### French utility group could be a buyer for London Underground

The London Tube network could fall into French ownership, it emerged yesterday, when Generale des Eaux, France's dargest utility group, threw its hat into the ring as a potential bidder. Chris Godsmark, Business Correspondent, assesses the growing interest in the

Underground.

Jean-Marie Messier, chairman and chief executive of Generale des Eaux (GE), said in London yesterday that the acquisitive multinational utility empire would be interested in buying part of London Underground if the Government decided to press ahead with a full-scale privatisation. "It's an interesting idea," said Mr Messier, who said he was waiting to see the outcome of the review of the tube launched by John Prescott, Minister for Transport and the Environment, after the election.

However GE warned that it would only become involved as a train operator and

had ruled out taking over responsibility for infrastructure such as track and signalling. "We don't want to be the World Bank provider of finance on environmental infrastructure," he said. One possibility was that the French group would join a consortium which would reflect expertise in

GE pledged to continue its aggressive expansion in the UK, which has seen its turnover rise to almost £2bn in just 10 years. Mr Messier said GE intended to invest "some hundreds of millions of pounds" in the UK over the next three to five years, on top of the £2bn invested so far.

The company claims to be the largest passenger transport operator in the UK. with control of two of the biggest privatised rail franchises on London commuter routes, Connex South Central and Connex South Eastern. It also owns four drinking water companies, has a 40 per cent stake in General Cable, the cable telephones and TV group, and is the UK market leader in waste disposal.

The interest in tube privatisation could further complicate the discussions between the Treasury and Mr Prescott's

office. Price Waterhouse has drawn up a list of possible sell-off options which were sent to the Prime Minister's office last month. They include dividing responsibility for track and train operation, mirroring rail privatisation, breaking up the tube into separately run vertically integrated

lines, or a sale as a single business. However Mr Prescott is known to prefer selling a concession to run the track and signalling, lasting around 20 years, but keeping train operation in state ownership, a move which would dent GE's ambitions. Railtrack and WS Atkins, the civil engineering group, have both been tipped as potential infrastructure bidders.

However, the pressure from other interested private sector train operators, including Virgin, could force a reappraisal

Meanwhile Mr Messier fuelled the pressure from business for the UK to join the single European currency. He said the euro would "not be the euro until the British pound joins". The decision to join some time after the next election seemed perfect, he added. "I cannot imagine the UK staying outside for too long."

#### British Gas disputes claim on customers switching

British Gas yesterday cast doubt on claims by Ofgas, the industry watchdog, that 400,000 of the company's customers in Scotland and the North-east of England would switch to rival suppliers when domestic competition goes live from tomorrow. A further 2.5 million homes will be able to desert British Gas, now the brand name of the Centrica group, on top of 2 million taking part in competition trials in the South of England.

Ofgas claimed one in six households had signed contracts with new suppliers, but British Gas said the true figure was one in 18 homes. "We would categorically disagree with the numbers. No more than 150,000 people will leave us over the next few weeks," said a spokeswoman. Ofgas said it stood by its figure, adding that tomorrow's phase of competition looked set to be the most successful so far. Eastern Group, the regional electricity company, has claimed it has signed up 200,000 customers in Scotland and the North East.

#### RIR not liable for cancer

A jury in Florida yesterday found that RJR Nabisco, owner of the RJ Reynolds cigarette manufacturer, was not liable for the cancer of a former costomer, Joann Karbiwnyk. The jury said RI Reynolds cigarettes were not unreasonably defective. Ms Karbiwnyk, 60, had alleged that she developed lung cancer from smoking Winston cigarettes, made by RJ Reynolds.

Mary Aronson, an analyst with Aronson Washington Research said the verdict would not have much of an impact on the tobacco settlement pending in Congress. "If there had been a win for the plaintiff, the feeling was that this would have pushed the amount higher for the settlement in Congress," she said.

#### **BP** to announce buy-out

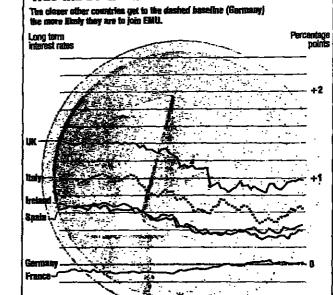
British Petroleum is expected on Monday to announce deals to buy out public shareholders in its French and Spanish subsidiaries, BP France and BP Oil Espana. Shares in the two companies were suspended on the Paris and Madrid stock markets yesterday and a BP spokesman in London declined to elaborate on the reasons behind the move. However the oil giant looks set to buy up outside stakes of about 7 per cent in each companies held by other investors.

#### French jobless figure static

Unemployment in France stayed at 12.5 per cent in September, unchanged from its August level. The French labour ministry said the number of registered unemployed immediately available for work fell by 0.2 per cent to reach 3,127,900 on a seasonally adjusted basis. But if part-time and temporary staff are taken into account, the number of jobless rose 0.7 per cent to 3,561,600 in August.

#### Mortgage lending up

Gross mortgage lending by major banks was £3.9bn in September, 43 per cent higher than the August figure, according to the British Bankers' Association, However, the BBA warned that meaningful comparisons of the September figures with earlier data was not possible because the September data included for the first time figures from Alliance & Leicester, Halifax and Woolwich, following their demutualisations.



**Who will be in EMU? The financial markets' view** 

TOWARDS EMU: If the line moves towards the German base line it means investors no longer require such a high premium for holding that country's bonds compared to German ones, because they are confident the currency won't devalue against the mark. In other words, they think that country will be lock a single currency with Germany in 10 years' time.

AWAY FROM EMU: However, if they think the country won't be in EMU, that it will have higher inflation, and that there is a risk of a tuture devaluation against the mark, then they will demand an extra premium for holding that country's bonds, so the line will move away from the base.

#### When will EMU start? The City Analysts' View.

Mikim Europe, Paine Webber, ABN Amro, JP Morgan, Deutsche Morgan Greutell

Saleman Brothers, Goldman Sachs, HSBC James Capel, UBS what probability they placed on EMU starting on time.

Probability EMU starts on time:	83%	(82% last week)
Probability EMU is delayed:	14%	(14% last week)
Probability EMU never happens:	3%	(4% last week)

#### **Currency crisis in emerging** markets 'might help EMU'

vinced that European Monetary Union will start on time, despite this week's fears of a meltdown in world financial markets and the gulf that has opened up between the Government and the Conservatives over the single currency issue.

The Independent's panel of experts now rate the chances of EMU being up and running in 1999 at 83 per cent, fractionally higher than a week ago

Turmoil in the Far East financial markets is causing con-

City economists remain con- Prior at James Capel, if the speculators turned their attention to Europe, the Greek drachma and Italian lira would be the most likely targets.

Michael Lewis at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell said the currency crisis in emerging markets might even help the EMU cause, provided it does not undermine the dollar. The reason is that it has reduced the need for a rise in US interest rates which could have imposed further strains on some European currencies, most notably cern and, according to Robert the French franc and the lira.

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TOMORROW IN THE NEW-LOOK, SEVEN-SECTION



#### THE MINISTER OF SOUND

How James Palumbo came to be king of the nightclub scene

#### Plus

- Female trouble are women fools for alternative medicine?
- Happy birthday Brookside David Aaronovitch on 15 years of Channel 4
- Win £10,000 in the Independent on Sunday/First Direct photography competition
- Decriminalise cannabis the latest important developments in our campaign to change the law

IT'S CHANGED ... HAVE YOU?

# IIME OFF

TRAVEL, LEISURE & SPORT



view from White Horse Hill: walkers gaze towards Uffington

Photograph: John Lawrence

# Poetry in motion

The ancient Ridgeway track is drenched in myth, history - and poetry. Andy Bull follows the trail of John Betjeman.

Pounding along the Ridgeway on my mountain bike, I stopped for breath and heard a strange sound. Through the eerie, muffled silence of the early morning mist came a drumming that at first I mistook for the beat of my own overtaxed heart. Three racehorses loomed out of the fog, and were swiftly swallowed from view once

It was a reminder that the Ridgeway, a 6,000-year-old green road that rides the Downs from the Berkshire Thames-side village of Streatley to West Kennett in Wiltshire, is still a working highway.

People also come here for the solitude, the rich history and the unique downland flora and fauna. I, on this occasion, had come because of the poet John Betjeman.

Betjeman lived in the village of Farnborough and 11 miles farther west at Uffington, in the valley to the north beneath the famous White Horse. He loved the area, and regularly walked the Ridgeway.

Parking my car at Bury Down above the racing village of West Isliey would give me a good day's cycling, with lunch at Uffington before the return journey.

The ridge of the Downs is an exhilarating place to cycle. I passed the mysterious ancient monument of Scutchamer Knob, a horseshoeshaped earth rampart that may be an Iron Age burial chamber. Or it may be where scutchers, who beat

wetted flax, held their festivities. A little farther on, beyond a copse, where a bridlepath crosses long grass, a great lump of stone ory of Penelope Betjeman (1910-1986) who loved the Ridgeway". Penelope was a keen horsewoman and the memorial was placed here by her daughter Candida, at the spot where the bridlepath she took from the Betjemans' home in Farnborough meets the Ridgeway.

I took the bridleway south to Farnborough. The village is no more than a farm, a little 12thcentury church, the Old Rectory, in which the Betjemans lived, and a row of cottages. The former poet laureate, who died in 1984, lived in the village for only six years. but he has a memorial here. In the church of All Saints, so tiny you feel you could stretch out your arms and. touch each side of the nave, is a stained-glass window designed by John Piper, dedicated to him.

The bright autumn sun beaming straight on to the glass ignited the deep blues and greens of the window, which depicts a tree of life flanked by fishes and butterflies. Across the lane is the grand, redbrick, Georgian Old Rectory, where the Betjemans lived from 1945 until 1951. In summer it opens its grounds under the Gardens Open scheme.

The ride here from the Ridgeway and back gives a more varied view of the downs than you get from the summit. This is a gentle, voluptuous landscape and I began to fancy I was juddering over a hard, flat stomach, tracing a curving backbone, descending along the length of an extended limb. Everything was clothed in the subtle colours of autumn; the charcoal of the thin topsoil, with a powdering of chalk; the ochre of richer, newly ploughed clay, the fawn of a stubble field, dotted with the red of a clutch of late poppies.

Back up on the Ridgeway the path climbed gently, passing the

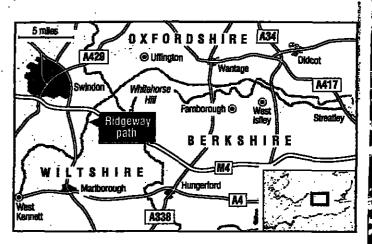
his job at the Architectural Review and later to Shell, to work on their guidebooks. When the Second World War broke out he joined the Observer Corps and spent his nights in a hut in Parrot Field, on the lane leading up to the White Horse, watching for enemy planes.

NDEPENDENT SATURDAY VEMBER 1997

He left in 1945, for Parnborough, Betjeman wrote with characteristic nostalgia of "straw thatched, chalk-built, pre-war Uffington". And, in his poem "Uffington":

Tonight we feel the muffled peal! Hang on the village like a pall; / It overwhelms the towering elms -/ That death-reminding dying fall;/ The very sky no longer high/ Comes down within the reach of all./ Imprisoned in a cage of sound/ Even the trivial seems profound.

I cycled back up the winding lane through the steep, Ice-Agesculpted slopes of the downs, their covering of grass still pale after the



market town of Wantage - where driest of summers. Puzzlingly, what the Betjemans moved after Farnborough - in a valley to the north.

I passed Segsbury Castle, one of the Iron Age hill forts built to defend this vital strategic route from the route, I found, hidden in the attack from the north. Everywhere are reminders of ancient peoples. England were densely forested and dangerous, the Ridgeway provided safe routes from the English and Bristol Channels to cross the Thames at the Streatley ford before joining the Icknield Way for East Anglia, Why, even Stone Age man may have walked this route before

the onset of the Ice Age. The downs are at their broadest, highest and most solitary on the stretch approaching Uffington and the White Horse. At the top of White Horse Hill I turned off, passing Uffington Castle, and headed for the cluster of houses below.

John and Penelope Betjeman

lived in Uffington, in a rented whitewashed cottage called Gerrards Farm in the main street. They came in 1934, and Betjeman became people's warden of the early-English church of St Mary, and drove his Ford Prefect to the village station - long since closed - to take the train to London and

I had expected to be the clean, abstract lines of the galloping horse were woolly, fluffy and plump. And then, as I rounded Dragon Hill, supposedly where St George

slayed the dragon, the White Horse

suddenly became mobile, its fluffy flesh flying off in all direction ing just the chalk skeleton. In this place of legend and mystery, inexplicable things can happen. But there was a mundane explanation. Some sheep that had been nibbling at the grass around the figure of the heart sheep that had been nibbling at the grass around the figure of the heart sheep that had been nibbling at the grass around the figure of the heart sheep that had been nibbling at the grass around the figure of the heart sheep that had been nibbling at the grass around the figure of the heart sheep that had been nibbling at the grass around the figure of the heart sheep that had been nibbling at the grass around the grass a the figure of the horse, had scat-

tered at my approach. Sadly, no story of the Great Exploding White Sheep of Uffington the country.
will be added to the Ridgeway's rich ticularly suslegacy of myth and mystery.

Map: Ordnance Survey's Landrange 174. The Ordnance Survey also publishes a good guide book, The 71-351 3042) Ridgeway, by Neil Curtis.

Facilities on the Ridgeway itself are few, but most villages have pubs serving food. There is also a youth lift into the air, hostel - YHA Court Hill Ridgeway piness has not Centre is just north of the Ridgeway of that the party where it is crossed by the A338, close, to much talking to the village of Lecombe Regis.

'Uffingion' is included in 'The ug that, too, and

Best of Betjeman' (Penguin, £6.99), 1g that, too, and

SILK CUT

ULTRA

TOBACCO SERIOUSLY HALASH SEAMAGE

INSIDE **TODAY** 

DAY OF THE DEAD

Flying kites 2 & 3

SKIING

Pistes bashed 7

**OUTDOORS** 

Friendly wolf 13

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David Jones' locker 26

SMOKING CAUSES CANCER

Chief Medical Officers' Warning I mg Tar 0.1 mg Nicotine

Creel: a mix and nbues All

There is a quiet revolution going on. Bird-watching is becoming trendy - especially on holiday.

Seeing pink flamingos in Kenya, grey-sided laughing thrushes in Nepal, or honey buzzards in France has a rather better image than lurking with anorak and Thermos waiting for a rarity on the north Norfolk coast.

The problem is, just as it's becoming acceptable to come out of the bird hide, the birds are disappearing. According to the RSPB and Birdlife International, bird numbers have declined dramatically across Europe and 195 species are in trouble. One way of counteracting this is to go with a tour operator who is involved with conserving birdlife. Honeyguide Wildlife Holidays, for instance, which runs tours to the Spanish Pyrenees, donates £25 per customer to a local ornithological conservation programme that is involved with saving the Spanish Steppes - one of the most seriously threatened bird habitats in Europe.

The problem is not just a European one. World-wide, birds are struggling because of declining habitats following the loss of tropical forests, and drainage of wetlands for agriculture

Ironically, the development of tourism is often a big part of the problem. Eilat in Israel is a top draw for international bird-watchers, attracting more than 30,000 tourists a year who come to see massive concentrations of the birds that stop off there on their migration route - bluethroats from Russia. lesser whitethroats from England, little stints from the Arctic Circle, among others.

But hotels and lagoons have been carved out of the onceextensive salt marsh and large areas have been converted to farming to serve the growing local and visitor population. The consequence? Destruction of the very habitat that supports the birds - particularly the fruit and flowers that provide them with vital protein after their 2,000-km flight across

Sue Wheat

#### RED CHANNEL

A compendium of hazards facing today's traveller: Foreign Office warnings about travel to Poland

There is a serious risk of robbery at main rail stations and on trains, particularly international services and long-distance trains. Passengers are most at risk while boarding trains. Keep jewellery, watches, cameras, passports and wallets/purses out of sight. Do not leave the compartment unattended.

"Poland is a major east-west transit route for heavy vehicles. Drivers are advised to take particular care. Vehicles should not be left unattended when personal belongings are on board. Valuables should never be left in glove compart-

Those visiting forested areas are advised to seek medical advice about inoculations for tick-borne encephalitis."

For more information about Poland and many other countries, contact the Travel Advice Unit on 0171-238 4503 or 4504, or fax 0171-238 4545; on the Internet, at http://www.fco.gov.uki or on BBC-2 Ccefax from page 470 on-

#### VISITORS' BOOK

From the visitors' book at the Museum of the Revolution, the former home of Pancho Villa, in

"Today I came to see part of my culture, and I thank Rosa, California.

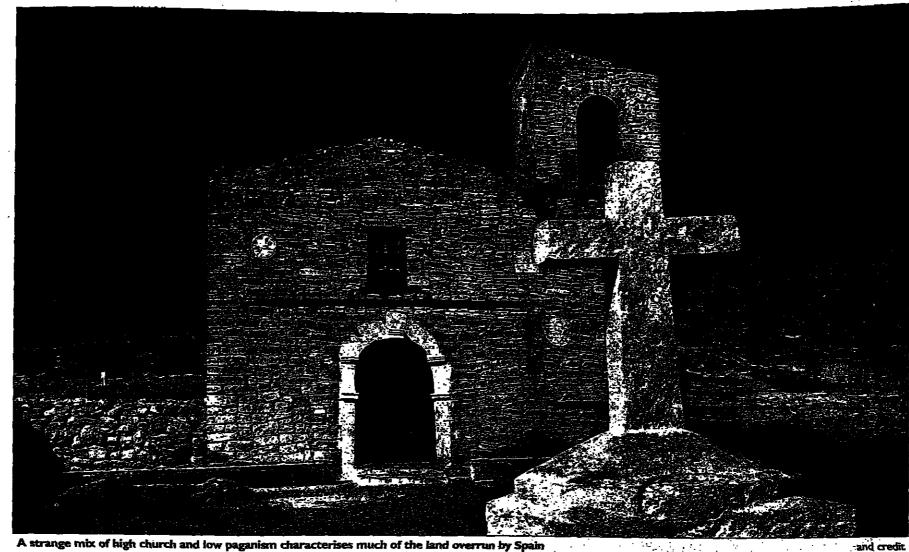
"We only enjoyed it because we had an excellent guide" - Jackie and Steven, England.

"This is a very unique place. Viva Mexico" – W B Chandler, Detroit.

"This book is as interesting as the museum: very" - A Giardino, New York City.

"People of Mexico, best wishes from the Martins of New York City, USA. Hopefully the poor will become richer in mind and body, money too! Long live the revolution." - The Martins of New York City.

"Viva Pancho, the Mexican Che Guevara. Salud y pesos to the poor people of Mexico. May you find true liberation" - CH, London.



# Time for a party for the dear departed

This weekend in Mexico. families celebrate the Day of the Dead with an odd mixture of reverence and jollity. Richard Holledge joins the merry mourners.

He walks along the track, a great bundle of bright orange African marigolds over his shoulder. His wife follows, dutching a bucket of water. Behind, the children carelessly brandish splashy dahlias. It's a curious little family outing, characterised by a kind of determined quietness.

They are heading out of town to the cemetery to celebrate Mexico's most important religious ceremony, La Dia del Muerte - the Day of the Dead. It is an odd mix of Hallowe'en, wild jamboree and serious mourning for the recently departed.

There seemed to be nothing particularly grief-stricken about any of the families who visited the cemetery in Muitles, a dusty, chaotic suburb to the north of Mexico City. They went about their business of arranging flowers in tins and draping them on the corrugated plastic covers of the graves. The petals from the marigolds are shredded to make into poignant little crosses on the earth in front of the more permanent crosses - often in wood, tied with yarn - that are scattered untidily over the hillside. After a year the dead relative gets a second cross, as if in confirmation that they have gone for ever.

inside the cemetery everything is conducted with appropriate gravity, with none of the expected great explosions of weeping and Latin emotion that you might expect. On the way to the graves, it is a slightly lighter story. The mourning relatives may have stopped to chat at other mourners at one of the many stalls that line the approach to the cemetery; they may have bought tortillas, munched at little fish, been tempted by alarmingly green sausages hanging from makeshift awnings. It is a bit like the

In the days before this weekend's celebrations the country had been a whole lot noisier. The mariachi bands fiddle, strum and blast with unparalleled energy. The shops are crammed with toy skeletons and

annual general meeting of a

devilish masks. On the way back from the city centre our car was "ambushed" by excitable youths. A skeleton hung from a makeshift gallows, a rope stretched across the road. Wearing masks and clutching bottles of Dos Equis, they demanded "ransom" money before allowing us to pass. Nowhere celebrates with

greater passion and greater tourist interest than the colonial city of Patzcuaro, on the edge of the second highest lake in the Americas. Everything about the place is redolent with that strange mix of high church and low paganism that characterises so much of the land overrun by the Spaniards and secured by the

For example, it is hundreds of miles from the high plains

the Yucatan peninsula and the Mayan city of Chichen Itza. On the walls of the court where they staged the ball game - a sort of ancient basketball, possibly using a skull instead of a ball - a carving shows the captain of the defeated team receiving his just deserts. He has been spectacularly beheaded, his neck spouting great plumes of blood. But is he the loser? One theory has him the winner:

It is this curious mix of pre-Hispanic attachment to death and the importance of sacrifice that may underlie the modern Indians' atavistic approach to religion and to the dead.

the reward for his team's vic-

tory a speedy dispatch to the

That doesn't altogether explain the red outline of lipstick clinging to a casket containing around Patscuaro to the heat of a recumbent Christ in the Basil-

ica which dominates the city, nor, indeed, a woman praying, chatching a can of Coke in one hand, but perhaps it does something to explain the Mexicans' fascination for death, and a need to acknowledge it with this combination of ritual and supersugon.

The museum is filled with grotesque animal masks and human heads with ghastly lolling tongues, sprouting horns, infernal scars. A room of ex votos adds to the sense of superstition. Painstakingly carved on strips of tin, they are representations to God to save a sick wife, help a husband who hurt himself at work, spare a man from banging, cure a man injured in a train crash.

Come the big day, the city - and more particularly the island of Janitzio - becomes a centre for mourning on a grand

scale. Indians from miles around crowd on to boats - they used to be pretty affairs withgreat butterfly-style nets - and converge on the island with a single candle burning in the bow. The locals ignore the flashing bulbs of the tourists to hold vigils over the dead, chanting gently through the night.

If they stay relatively restrained at the sight of the tourists while the sanctities take place, this quickly changes with daylight. The boat trips from the mainland to the island are cheered by serenading quartets of guitarists and reedy warblers. A hat is purposefully passed around before we step. ashore. The island, with steep paths leading to a vast statue of the Independence fighter Morelos, is a fantastical gallimaufry of shops selling such gew-gaws as plastic virgins, mugs shaped like bosoms - very popular - combs with your name inscribed, shiny plates

and plastic bearts. The children come out to of package holidays, by operators such as First beg, their mothers try to sell egg-cup shaped little containers of plum jam. In fact, plum stones, as I later discovered.

The country becomes infused with a kind of orange fuzz as dropped marigold petals. leave wispy tracks along streets and down country lanes.

To the north, in Creel, a lazy, one-horse town on the railway line which links Chihuahua with the coast, the flowers droop in the heat, and pictures of relatives and drawings of the Virgin are wrapped in cellophane as if trying to keep their memory alive a little longer.

#### MEXICAN WAYS

Getting there: scheduled flights

Competition between European airlines means that air fares to Mexico City are lower, in real terms, than ever before. Through discount agents, British Airways is selling its non-stop Gatwick-Mexico City flight for around £480 return, including tax. Travelling on Air France via Paris, Iberia via Madrid or KLM via Amsterdam can cost even less, with fares around the £400 level sometimes available. These airlines also enable you to travel from one of many UK airports.

It used to be the case that travelling to Mexican destinations outside the capital was relatively cheap on US airlines such as American, via Miami, and Continental, via Houston: recent rises in taxes mean the advantage has largely been lost. It is often cheaper to fly direct to Mexico City and then use larta. (Note that many of these stop en route

an airmass to travel onwards.

Another option, particularly for destinations in the north of Mexico, is to take advantage of low fares to destinations in Arizona, Texas and southern California offered by all the leading transatiantic airlines, and to trav-El Paso are the US cities closest to Mexico.

Getting there: charter flights and inclusive holidays Last year the number of British package holiday-makers going to Mexico more than dou-

bled, and a significant increase is expected this year, too. There are now numerous charter flights,

mainly from Manchester and Gatwick, to the Mexican resorts of Cancun and Puerto Val-

AA Roadwatch

Jia (M25) and J3.

London, A306 Hammersmith Bridge, Closed

Surrey, M25-J8-10 Lane closures both ways

until luther moice. Bristol, MS-J18-19 Contratiow on Avoramouth

Bridge until August 1998. West Yorks, Mil J.47. Major long-term road-

Bucks, M40 Jila-3. Roadworks with contrallow

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Caty of comburgh, Caty Hozat, Bridge mainte-rence work at bridges at Cameron Tott. 18734. South Ayristine, Stincter Bridge, Barr, bridge closed for roadworks until 0600 Mon-day 3rd November. A&11 Dunblane, Temporary Iradic Fights casu-ing delays. East Ayrishie. Little Bellstand Rd, Kirmemock. Closed for roadworks. Diversions

in operation 98033 String closed at Kinbuck for bridge

works. Deesions in operation. A81 Stirling. Between Gartmore and Garta-tan. Temporary traffic lights causing delays.

Out and about with AA Roadwatch cal 8338 487 for the lates local and regional leafic news, Source: The Automo-bite Association. Calls charged at 39p per min.

(chean rate) 49p per mix (all other limes) and VAT

Choice (0161-745 7000), Airtours (054) 500479) and Thomson (0990 502580). Some flights may have space for "seat only" customers; expect to pay around £300 return el across the border by land. San Diego and to Cancun, and slightly more to Puerto Val-

to refuel.) Charters are mostly sold as part

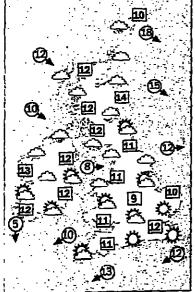
Visitors require a tourist card, which is issued free by the airline when you embark, or at the frontier if you enter by land.

More information

Mexican Ministry of Tourism, 60 Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 5DS (0171-734 1058). Note that this office takes a substantial siesta, closing each day from 1.30pm to 3pm.

#### WEATHER

#### The British Isles, noon today



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astle\_\_4:29pm to 7:12am

General summary and outlook: A band of light rain will edge slowly southwards there will also be some early sunshine in the east and south, while all parts will remain mild. Northern but the cloud will break at times to allow a little sunshine. Elsewhere in England it will be dry and after any early fog clears there will be some good sunny breaks.

The bulk of Monday will be dry but rain will edge into south-west England during the day and may end of the afternoon. Tuesday will be cloudy with Scotland should hold onto the dry weather.

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across Scotland, becoming patchy as it does so, but ireland, Wales and northern England will see a lot of cloud with a few spots of drizzle, mainly on the hills,

There may be a little rain in southern parts of Scotland but elsewhere it will be dry with sunny breaks. reach much of southern England and Wales by the rain over England, Wales and Northern Ireland but

Oxford

Air quality

Testerday's readings
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London Moder
S England Good
Wales Good
C England Good
N England Good
Scotland Good
N Ireland Good

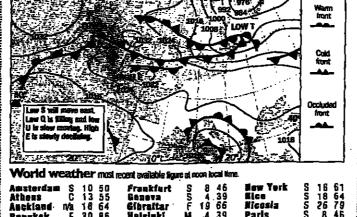
S England Wales C England N England Scotland N Ireland

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Oxford
Plymouth n/a
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Scarbarough C 6 43 Scarbarough C 12 54 Southead F 9 46 Tirac C 12 54 Tirac C 14 57 Yerk R 3 3 37

Atlantic chart, noon today



New York Rice Nicosia Paris Bangkok F Barceless S Helsiekí Hong Keng S Istanbul C Beirut Belgrade Berlin Bombay Brassels Kaala Lampum/a Singapere Steckboim 9 48 Lisbon S Les Angeles S Sydier Téperite Bacaes Aires Caire Cape Tewn Tokyo Venice methodrine C 19 66 Mexico City S 24 75 Misaf G 28 82 Mescow C 6 21 Vanich Caristchurchya 24 75 Copenhagen F 11 52 Warsaw Corte Floresce

Second Good Good Good Good Good Good Good

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SO2 Good Good Good Good Good Good

Wellington Zurich High tides AM HT PM HT

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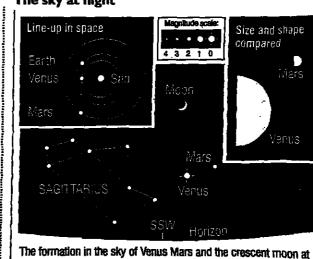
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Hall (Albert Dock) 6.34 8.6 18.51 8.6

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Sun and moon 2.06 7.1 14.19 7.1

Sun rises Sun seis First quarter: Nev 7 The sky at night



about 5 p.m. on Tuesday evening (4th). Earth, Venus and Mars are currently lined up in space. Being close to greatest elongation. Venus appears at half phase.

Our three nearest planetary neighbours - the Moon, Venus and Mars - can be seen clustered together in the early evening sky this week. On Tuesday, the new crescent Moon completes a trio in Sagittarius with brilliant Venus and a considerably fainter Mars lying 3 degrees or so to her right. As darkness falls around 5pm, they can be caught very low in the SSW, shortly before they set. Venus will become more prominent as day length shortens in the run-up to the winter solstice. This week Venus achieves its greatest castern elongation, a maximum separation from the sun in the sky of 47 degrees. A small telescope on Venus at the moment will reveal its half-moon shape, a consequence of its position nearer the Sun than us. By contrast, the tiny disc of Mars, some three, times further away in a more distant orbit, is almost fully illuminated.

Jacqueline Mitton

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All Saints Da

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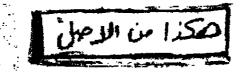
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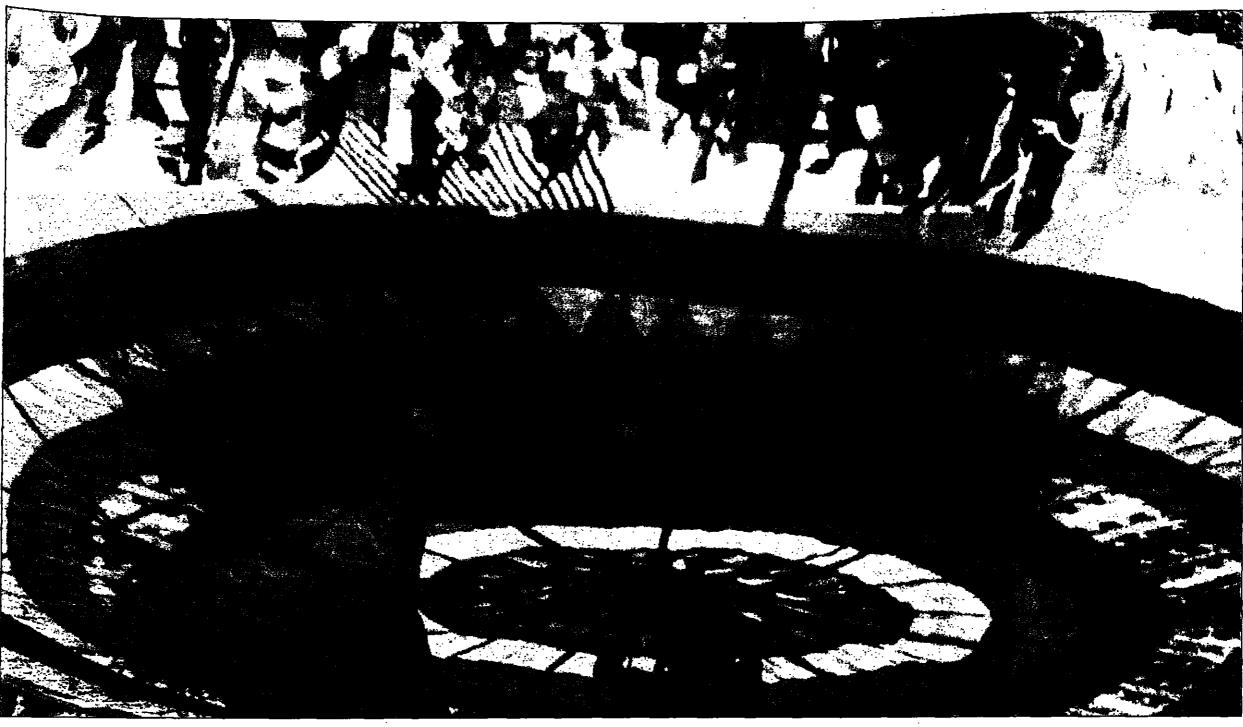
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I NOVEMBER 199



# 3/ALL SOULS

# Dancing on a string in Guatemala City



Ephemeral beauty: the kites of Santiago Sacatepequez take days to make, and may fly for just a few seconds

Photograph: M L Minns

Today, in the little town of Santiago Sacatepequez in Guatemala, the skies will be filled with vibrantly coloured kites. Marianna Minns watches the celebrations there for All Saints' Day.

The rustle of tissue paper flapping in the wind forms an orchestra of sounds, a rhythmical plea to the saints to watch over their people and join in the celebration. Vibrant colours bleed into the sharp blue sky and shout out through geometric patterns. It becomes a rush hour in the sky as swarms of hand-made kites, or barriletes, of all sizes, jostle about. They are stretched up as high as possible, to bring the people closer to the spirits and their loved ones. It is said that the noise of the kites beating against the wind annoys the evil spirits, since for a long time there was a problem with evil spirits invading the cemetery and troubling people in the town. At one time benevolent spirits wandered the streets looking for help. Now, no one is too sure

flying seems a good enough reason to protect people from malevolence.

It is All Saints' Day, in the small town of Santiago Sacatepequez in the heart of day in a particular way. In the weeks run-Guatemala, where a curious tradition turns the day into a major event. Every year on 1 and 2 November, hundreds of people from neighbouring villages and from Guatemala City descend on this town to witness the spectacle in honour of the dead. Families gather to watch or take part, sitting on tombs that have been decorated with real and artificial gaudy flowers and evergreen wreaths. The poorer graves are simple mounds of earth, some of which have been coated in white plaster and adorned with pink and orange petals. The cemetery, high on a hill with a sweeping view over a lush landscape, becomes a playground and park, with children running round graves, only concerned with fighting for air space for their kites.

Families picnic, young soldiers patrol, unnervingly negotiating graves whilst carrying rifles, and it becomes anything but the peaceful resting-place that it should be. Yet whether they are still doing that, but kite- here in Guatemala nothing is sombre, least

of all All Saints' Day. It seems to be one form exciting patterns as a backdrop to pic-

ning up to the event, young men painstakingly put together giant kites so large, it is hard to believe that they can fly. The largest span six metres, are supported by cane sticks in the form of a wheel, and take at least three men to lift them. There is a curious contradiction in the fragility of the kite body and the clumsy-looking, beavy frame supporting it. Yet somehow they reach the sky. No one seems certain where the trad-

ition of kite building came from, but it is firmly adhered to amongst the Cakchiquel Indians. It is known that one of the main reasons for flying kites is per l'alegria de los muerios, or "to entertain the dead". Women do not get involved in constructing the kites although they certainly have a hand in preparing and selling food on the day. Kites are solely the preserve of the men, who form part of a committee which then plans the

And the kites are beautifully made. Tiny squares of brightly-coloured tissue paper

tures portraying pre-Columbian scenes, nat-Santiago Sacatepequez celebrates this ive to the indigenous people. Tassels of tissue paper thatter round the edges and the final piece of art is proudly carried through the town to be displayed on the lower part of the graveyard. The kites are lined up before it is their turn to fly. It is an anxious time, as a lot of money, time and creativity have been poured into the work - and picking the right moment is vital if the kite is not going to rip and smash trying to get airborne. Young men attach ropes to the kites to stabilise them and when they think the moment is right, they tug on the ropes using all their force to persuade the

> pathise with the unsuccessful. A few moments of glory while a giant kite glides in the air is usually all that is possible, but that doesn't seem to matter, and people bold their breath to stare. They watch it crash to the ground, and the de-

kite to catch the wind. People encourage

them, shouting and clapping, and sym-

This is expected. Kites rarely survive intact, and the effort that goes into making

The cheapest routes to Guatemala and Apart from an air route between the rest of Central America are on Con- Guatemala City and Flores, most transtinental Airlines via Houston, on KLM via Amsterdam, on Iberia via Madrid and on Avianca via Bogota. The best specialist agencies are Journey Latin America (0181-747 3108), South American Experience (0171-976 5511) and Steamond (0171-730 8646). Each offers return flights to Guatemala and most Central American cities for about £550,

It may be cheaper, though, to fly to Mexico City (for as little as £400 return) and travel from there by bus or air.

Getting around

port around the country is by bus, which is both cheap and frequent. The US State Department warns that 'Highway robberies by armed thieves have increased significantly over the past year and have occurred in all parts of the country. Tourist vans have been particularly susceptible targets".

More information

The Embassy of Guatemala, 13 Pawcett Street, London SW10 (0171-351 3042) can provide tourist information.

them is made knowing that their life span

At the end of the day, coloured tissue paper litters the ground, mingling with the with pride. They may have had only sec- having a hearty chuckle.

onds watching their kites lift into the air, but you sense that the happiness has not been only for the dead - and that the party is not yet over. There will be much talking flowers on the graves. Families head home, and laughter late into the evening. Perhaps the young boys carrying the damaged kites the good spirits are watching that, too, and

#### When the saints come marching in ...

At this time of year, avoid churchyards and don't look at your shadow ... Paul Vallely on the significance of All Hallows

--

This is the season of the dead. All around the world, at the beginning of November, local customs recall that at this time many thought the supernatural held sway upon the earth. The notion, prompted as it is by the winter equinox, ought to be confined to the cultures of the aurthern hemisphere. But thanks to the influence of the Catholic Church, the wall benicen the earth and the heavens is breached this weekend all across the globe.

In many cultures the imagery

Saints' Day (or All Hallow's Day) when the church celeothers who led heroic gospeiinspired lives. It dates back to the second century when Christians would hold eucharistic services at martyrs' tombs "in memory of those athletes who have gone before, and to train and make ready those who are to come hereafter," as one second-century writer put it. Originally it was held on the Friday after Easter, but in the ninth century it was moved to No-

It struck new resonance there. Among pre-Christian cultures, such as the Celts, winter began on 1 November, when tradition had it that the sun it-

ian. The first of November is All allowed evil spirits into the world for 48 hours. The Church, which was adept at appropriatbrates the lives of martyrs and ing pagan festivals, covered this extended period by making 2 November a day when the faithful pray that all those who have died should be released from purgatory, the place where souls are purged of their sins before they pass into heaven. It is called All Souls' Day, while the night before All Hallows, Hallowe'en, was once a Church vigil too, until Rome suppressed the practice as recently as 1955. All around the world old su-

perstitions cling to the season. The souls of the dead return at this time to their hearths to warm themselves, so it is as well to take measures to keep spirits at bay. Traditional advice was to avoid churchyards, not look behind at sounds in the night, to avert your eyes from your shadow in the moonlight and refrain from bunting for fear of wounding a wandering spirit. Other traditions centred around prophecy often to find the identity of a future spouse - which was easier at this time when the veil between the overworld and the underworld was briefly lifted.

for this is now primarily Christ- self entered the gates of hell and were transferred to local saints. It was only in 1234 that Rome arrogated to itself the power to veto the creation of new saints. Before then the local bishop could approve them. Each locality had its own saints who dominated the Catholic imagination in medieval times. The veneration of saints was one of the things Luther and the Protestant reformers objected to, arguing that prayers to saints detracted from the status of Christ as the mediator between God and humanity. Of course, we are all saints

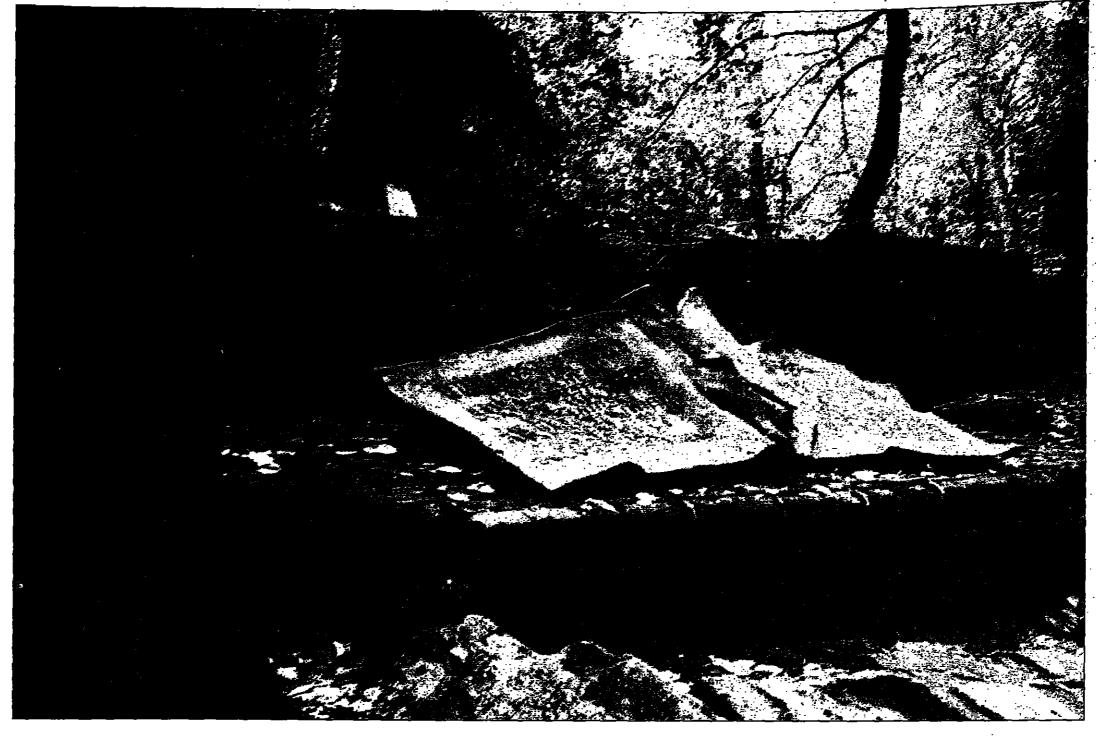
now. The tragic circumstances of her death were sufficient to have Princess Diana widely proclaimed to have joined Mother Teresa in heaven. St Paul might have approved - be used the word as a synonym for a Christian - though more modern theologians might object. But there was in the response to her death a hint that, even in an age of rationalism, an echo lingers of the old feelings about the interstice between life and death, between reason and faith. Behind the quaint carnivais of the season there still lurks the suspicion that there may be more to heaven and earth than Certain of pagan traditions are dreamt of in our philosophy.



A church near Creel: a mix of Christianity and superstition imbues All Souls Day



# East of Berlin, west of Stalingrad: Europe's killing forest



Berchtesgaden into an exhibition centre. But the Führer's main war-time HQ is already a tourist attraction. in 1941, a tranquil patch of eastern Poland became centre stage for the theatre of war. Simon Calder walked through the woods where the Führer lived and almost died.

This week, plans were announced to turn Hitler's alpine retreat above

A maple leaf, the colour of rust, is plucked by the cool, westerly breeze and wafts to earth a few feet nearer Russia. While sunlight dances through sleader trees, a delicious trace of woodsmoke drifts by. Under a clear, bright sky, an autumn walk through the Ketrzyn woods of eastern Poland is an exercise in serenity.

Yet as you amble further, in the general direction of Moscow, gross and ghostly shapes begin to rise out of the terrain.

Half a century ago, this fair forest concealed die Wolfsschanze - the Wolf's Lair, as the Führer's headquarters was known. During World this obscure corner of (then) East Prussia than in any other location, and it was here that he came closest to dying, before taking his own life amid a disintegrating Berlin.

You wouldn't come here by accident. This destination is so remote the range of amenities available to that it doesn't feature in the Thomas Cook European Timetable. Board a terranean sauna, a cinema and even bus before dawn in the port city of a casino were created to entertain the Gdansk, and after five hours of me- Nazi warriors between moving the Russian border, you arrive in a small country town.

Even in the sparse text of eastern Europe. Ketrzyn feels like barely a of people anyone would want as comma. Once, you reflect, this town was known as Rastenburg and echoed with German voices

In only a few moments you have left behind the assortment of dwellings strewn around the tired old station. A field annexed from the lazily rolling countryside is being ploughed by a horse, the only manifestation of energy to impinge upon a placid picture. But as you wander onwards and eastwards, a single-track railway converges with the road.

This line brought Adolf Hitler from Berlin to his lair in the woods. In 1940, prior to the invasion of the Soviet Union, 3,000 Germans created a Führerhauptquartiere in an East Prussian wilderness. On 24 June 1941, soon after the war against the USSR began, the Führer arrived. The Wolf's Lair moved centre stage in the theatre of war.

Today, the sight that awaits you is as startling as it is chilling. Huge shapes, twisted at vicious angles, conspire to block the pale sun. In a gentler world - the jungle of central America, say - you would assume you had stumbled upon some lost Mayan

city that had fallen victim to an earthquake. The sole purpose of this War 2 Adolf Hitler spent longer in conurbation, however, was to direct the Third Reich's struggle for world domination. When all was lost, the destruction turned in on itself. But that was later.

In the early Forties, an over-eager new arrivals at the Wolf's Lair: a subconsigning Jews to concentration camps and near-certain death.

The residents were not the sort neighbours. Besides Hitler and his Alsatian dog Blondi, Hermann Göring and Martin Boorman had personal bunkers - as did Ribbentrop, who had connived with the USSR to carve up Poland in 1939. At its height, the Wolf's Lair was home to more than 2,000 people, many of them detailed to protect the Führer. Elaborate precautions were taken

to conceal the lair from prying Allied eyes. Besides the natural covering afforded by abundant mixed woodland, nets were strung across the bunkers. These were covered with vegetation appropriate for the season, to make the lair indistinguishable from the endless forest. The site was never attacked from outside while the Nazis were in residence.

The wreckage you witness was administered by the fleeing German military in January 1945, three days before the Red Army arrived. After Soviet troops triumphed at Stalingrad in 1943, the Eastern Front began to crumble. To prevent the USSR making use of the site on the westward offensive, the Nazis set about a well-rehearsed programme of blow-

ing up the bunkers. As further de- to the map of facilities at Center nation's soul alive, many patriots conterrence, 10,000 land-mines were laid; it later took 11 years to clear them. The structures that have survived more or less intact were the remnants of daily life, such as the echoing tea house - empty but for splashes of sunlight. Evidence is estate agent might have pointed to strewn everywhere of a forest whose innocence has been violated.

Parcs. It reads, though, like a guide to a nightmarish theme park: "12 -Flak Bunker ... 27 – Führer escort hattalion barracks ... 21 - teleprinter exchange (reinforced 1944) ..."

As you tour the Wolf's Lair, such clinical detail makes you try to comprehend the collective insanity that created and then destroyed the

cluded, the Führer must die.

The only way to penetrate Hitler's personal escort battalion was for a trusted officer to carry out the assassination. The obvious candidate to carry out the tyrannicide was Colonel Claus Schenk von Stauffenberg. A war hero, who lost his right hand and left eye in North

the colonel's non-fatal flaw in unemotional language: "The inclusion of the second charge, even without a second detonator, would have magnified the power of the blast not twofold but many times, killing

everyone in the room outright." At the moment when the briefcase exploded, it was in such a pos-

jagged masonry to explore the place where some of the world's darkest deeds were perpetrated.

To visualise the scale, imagine a medium-sized aircraft hangar constructed out of 6-ft-thick slabs of concrete. After what looks like some gigantic geological calamity, the warren of living quarters and offices ition that the full force of the blast is barely identifiable beneath tomb-

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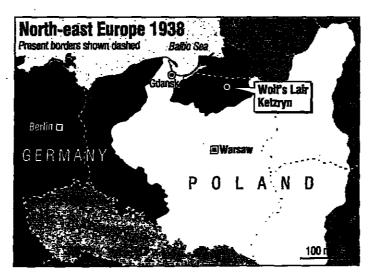
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A memorial to heroic failure (top): the scene of the most determined attack on Hitler's life, with a tribute to the would-be assassin, Claus von Stauffenberg. When all was lost, the Nazis destroyed their own lair; remnants of daily life, such as the tea house (right) are scattered around the woods.

Photographs: Simon Calder

Relative to its size, Poland suffered more than any other country in the Second World War. At the end of the conflict it regained its identity and lands, including the woods of Gorlitz (the pre-war Prussian name). The town and forest were renamed after a local hero, and the site preserved for tourists. If the attendance last weekend is typical, almost all the visitors are German.

From a tourist's point of view the facilities are excellent. In the restaurant that has risen from the foundations of the old SS barracks, you can eat "Wolf Ragout" - broth infiltrated by meatballs (beef, not wolf). Or tuck into a beetroot/sauerkraut/potato combination that Hitler, a vegetarian, would have favoured. It is a curious mix of rivetting historic site, weary state institution and brash new enterprise; REM's "Shiny Happy People" wafts insensitively out of a radio shoved into a refurbished corner.

Knowing the history of the place, ( was shocked to walk in and encounter a room full of uniforms. It turned out to be a prizegiving ceremony for Polish Army reservists. The Nazis' self-destruction had failed, I reflected; the victors had found a military use for the wreckage of the lair.

As with any tourist venue, a map marks out the highlights. From a distance, it seems comfortably similar met at Casablanca in 1943. To keep the

place. Architecture - if slamming vast slabs of reinforced concrete together to create fearsome monoliths can be so described - born from violence has itself been brutalised.

The menacing collage of concrete remains much as it was when, one harsh winter's morning in 1945, a sequence of explosions tore through it with two exceptions. One is that the forest is taking reprisals for its desecration: elegant, twisting roots are slowly strangling the monstrous foundations, while a canopy of birch, fir and maple casts shadows on the scene of wickedness. The other is a bronze memorial placed at the entrance to one particularly badly wrecked building. It was placed here five years ago by the children of a German officer who nearly became a hero.

After the Soviet counter-attack and the success of the Allies in the Normandy landings, the German Resistance became desperate. Throughout the war the anti-Hitler movement had included some highranking officers, but attempts at decisive action had always faltered in a muddle of betrayals.

A crushing defeat seemed inevitable, despite Germany's supremacy in rocket technology and progress on atomic weapons. Roosevelt, Stalin and Churchill had already agreed the dissection of Germany when they

Africa, he was appointed chief of staff for a new reservist force. This role gave him direct access to Hitler. On 20 July 1944, he was to attend a meeting with the Führer in the "Gener-

al Situations" bunker. Von Stauffenberg arrived with two bombs, each weighing about two pounds. He slipped out to an accomplice's quarters to prime the bombs, but owing to an interruption he carried only one of them into the meeting-room.

As you clamber over the ruins, your feet seeking a sure grip on wreckage now invaded by some mischievous mushrooms, you try to imagine the drama played out within these walls. Von Stauffenberg's bomb was placed beneath the heavy table, crucially with a massive table

leg separating it from Hitler. The colonel left the room, ostensibly to take a prearranged telephone call, and fled from the bunker. At 12.40pm, the bomb exploded. Von Stauffenberg climbed into a car that was waiting to take him south through the woodland to Wolfsschanze's own landing-strip. He paused long enough to see a body covered by the Führer's cloak being carried out of the building, and concluded that he had

changed the course of history. The definitive account of the events of 20 July is by Joachim Fest. himself a wartime soldier. He reports Four people at the meeting died, but the wretched concrete are tran-Hitler received only minor wounds.

You can trace von Stauffenberg's journey, and ponder upon the point when he believed his mission to have succeeded. By the time the dust had settled, his aircraft had departed for Berlin and a well-organised coup was seemingly under way. But before the plan to install a replacement military command could be properly implemented, the Führer himself was

speaking on German radio. Von Stauffenberg was executed by firing squad a few hours later. Over the next few months, 5,000 others were arrested on suspicion of

Had Hitler been killed, the war could have been curtailed and millions of lives saved - notably, those of Poles (both Jews and gentiles) who perished in concentration camps and the Warsaw Uprising. The post-war political map of Europe might have looked different; Poland, for example, might having avoided close on half a century of Soviet domination. And the Wolf's Lair might have been preserved intact as a monument to madness.

The Führer survived to spend another five months in the bunker, which was marked with a single identification number: 13. Signs warn plenty of visitors risk the dangerous, other material.

was deflected away from the Führer. like slabs. The lifeless grey tones of scended by light folling through the trees, highlighting leaves that range from deep green to fierce gold.

Each autumn's gentle scattering of maple detritus conceals a little more of the horror, and nurtures per growths. Woodland stripped of its purity is reasserting the supremacy of

The Führer is dead; long live the

Simon Calder bought a return flight from London to Warsaw on the Polish airline LOT for £185, through Fre gata (0171-451 7000). He travelled of train to Gdansk (about £5), then by bus (£3) to Ketrzyn. From the town you can walk to the Wolf's Lair in 90 min utes, or take one of the half-dozen but. es each day (fare 20 pence).

Admission to the Wolf's Lair costs £1. You can stay in a hotel on the site of the former SS barracks for around II.

'Plotting Hitler's Death' is the English translation of loachim Fest's 'Staatsstreich: Der Lange Weg zum 20 Juli'. It is published in paperback by Phoenix, price £7.99

The Polish National Tourist Offici-First Floor, Remo House, 310-312 Regent Street, London WIR 5.4J (017E) against venturing into the ruins, but 580 8811) can supply useful maps and

"Join the Literary Guild today for Quality, Choice and Discount on EVERY book. See Pages 54 and 55"

# 48 hours in the life of ... Warsaw

You need a break - and a short-cut to the soul of a city. Each week, 'The independent' provides a prescription for the perfect weekend away. This week, Simon Calder makes a pact with Warsaw, capital of Poland

#### Why go now?

Because Warsaw is at a delicious cusp: between shaking off the stagnation of nearly half a century of domination by Moscow, and becoming a premier league weekend-break destination. So you can enjoy a city where the tourist is still a rarity, yet benefit from a place where sassy new restaurants have joined the stock of Soviet-era milk bars to create a unique ambience. And in which other European capital could you stay in a hotel called, in all seriousness. "Garrison No 1"?

#### Beam down

The British bus company National Express has most of the angles covered. Its subsidiary, Fregata Travel (0171-451 7000), is an Eastern European specialist that offers cheap flights to Warsaw. For a Heathrow-Warsaw return on LOT Polish Airlines I paid £185 return; from today, this now costs £195 because of the increase in Air Passenger Duty.

The tax rise is likely to steer more passengers towards another National Express associate, Eurolines (01582 404511). This company operates regular buses to Warsaw from various UK departure points, for around £100 return. But with a journey time of around 24 hours, this does not make for a relaxing weekend.

#### Take a ride

Assuming you arrive by air, it is imperative to ignore the touts who greet all new arrivals at Warsaw airport; the very best you could hope for is to be comprehensively fleeced for a taxi ride into town. Instead, ake a ride on the 175 bus. Change your money before passport control. Then clear a path from Arrivals to Departures on the upper level. Buy a bus ticket (or, while you're at it, 10 tickets), price 1.40zl each, which works out at 25 pence. This will allow you to board the bus, which should be waiting outside there is a service every 15 minutes or so for most of the day.

In the course of its half-hour journey, the bus will take you through the city's entire architectural repertoire - from broad, tree-lined avenues with ranks of apartment blocks in the background, through hectares of dismal Socialist Realist cuboids and past the monumental Palace of Culture and Science, Stalin's bequest to Warsaw.

Get off the bus at the start of the Old Town. marked by the column of King Sigismund III.

#### Get your bearings

If you find yourself facing what looks like a breathtakingly preserved medieval masterpiece, that's because it has all been painstakingly reconstructed since the Second World War, when almost all of Warsaw was destroyed.

Sadly, only the core of the city was re-created: the Stare Miasto (Old Town), in which you find yourself standing, and the Nowe Miasto (New Town), based on a street plan that is almost as old. South runs the Royal Way. To the immediate east is the adjacent to the Old Town at ulitsa Mazowiecka 10

Wisla (Vistula) river, beyond it, and in all other directions, sprawls the artless architecture created when Warsaw was an unwilling participant in a Pact with the USSR.

Just two recommendations, but both are gems. Hotel Garnizonowy Nr 1, a former army hotel, is neatly

(00 48 22 827 2365). A twin room costs £18. Close by, the Hotel Warszawa (corner of Swietokryska and Szpitalna (00 48 22 826 9421), is unreconstructed Soviet swagger with double rooms from £50.

#### Take a hike

The Royal Way is the way. In an hour you can comfortably walk along a broad boulevard, laid out two chocolate at the small, cosy café in the north-west centuries ago, from the Old Town to Lazienki Park. corner of the park.

#### Lunch on the run

The first time I visited Warsaw, in 1985, you could barely find anywhere to eat out. Compared with even a year ago, there are now far more places along the Way where you can grab a satisfying snack. But hold out, if you can, to enjoy perfect pierogi (spicy dumplings) washed down with creamy, bitter hot

In the air: Warsaw is on the verge of shaking off the stagnation of the old USSR and becoming a booming tourist destination

Photograph: Geraint Lewis

#### Cultural afternoon

The Warsaw Historical Museum, which occupies a large chunk of the north side of Old Town Square. begins like any other repository of municipal history - with several storeys of how the city came to be. Then the tale takes a series of shattering twists, when the grim story of how a city with the one of the largest, liveliest Jewish communities in Europe could have been destroyed so wantonly and competely. Determinedly shocking, deeply moving.

#### Window shopping

Hal The last people to go seriously shopping in Warsaw were Russians, prior to 1989. The best souvenir among the retail doldrums is to be found at the airport duty-free shop, where a half-litre of Zubrowka (bison grass) vodka costs just £1.50.

#### An aperitif

Just inside the Old Town wall, on the north side of Kapitulna, a wine cellar has somehow survived the transition from Communism without becoming a Mafia bolthole - and the nation's brewers have rediscovered the art of making tasty beer, rather than the soapy ditchwater served up pre-1989.

#### Demure dinner

The first cheap, cheerful and chic restaurant opened in Warsaw about six months ago. Brseska, located on Krakowskie Przedmiescie (the first stretch of the Royal Way, opposite Tragutta) is most easily spotted by the image of a duck in the window, next to a shop with some bright yellow Camel window shades. Inside, this split-level bistro achieves a feat which has eluded most chefs in Warsaw: serving simple, fresh and filling dishes. A comprehensive meal might cost £5, including a few beers to wash it down.

#### Sunday morning: go to church

Almost every street in the centre contains a church heavy with ornamentation. The massive cathedral in the Old Town is a minor miracle in brick, while St Anne's, just south of the Royal Castle, retains its dignity despite having been moved a few dozen yards south to make way for an underpass.

Get there soon, because the superbly located Bar pod Barbakanem, next to the New Town barbican, cannot possibly survive the influx of foreign funds. This splendid hangover from Communist days dispenses pancakes, eggs, bread and a sweet, brownish liquid described as "cocoa" in surreal milk bar surroundings, for around £1.

#### A walk in the park

Back to Lazienki, a kind of three-dimensional, undepopulated version of Versailles. Keep moving, rather than opting for its "attractions", which include a Snake Museum and Torture Museum. Instead, revel in some sublime royal indulgences.

#### The icing on the cake

Don't bother ascending "Stalin's wedding cake" - the Palace of Culture and Sport is best seen from the 36thfloor bar of the Marriott Hotel which kindly has a Happy Hour, 5pm-7pm daily. Two beers will set you back £2, while you marvel at the sprawl of the city and, beyond, the unremittingly flat terrain that earned Poland the title "North Dakota of Europe".



When they start with capital letters, the words "Experience" and "Heritage" usually bear unfortunate connotations. The Heritage industry is a branch of nourism that seems concerned mainly with paying people to pretend to do the jobs that until recently they performed for teal. At the National Fisheries Museum in Grimsby, for exumple, ex-trawlermen work as (jurgive the phrase) cod fishermen, for the benefit of tourists. And, in general, to exper-

ience an "Experience" is to be ballered with multimedia hanalities; fundamentals are concealed lest they be too intellectually demanding.

So I approached the BBC Experience with trepidation. The new attraction opened to the public two days ago, occunying an area in the bowels of Broadcasting House that was previously studio space for niking radio programmes. Today, it is populated by actors pretending to be technical staff that tourists can pretend to n actors. But only a churl would deny that the chance to play opposite Joe Grundy in a poof edition of The Archers is nuth enjoyable and instructive.

To bring the best of everything to the greatest number of homes": that was John Reith's nomise on becoming the RC's first director-general.

Seventy-five years on, the presented the breakfast show Corporation is spending heavily to tempt people out of their homes and into Broadcasting House.

the BBC Experience. Its boss, Mike McDonald, reckons the cash will be repaid within seven years if the predicted number of punters can be prevailed upon to pay £5.75 (about three weeks' worth of licence fee), for the 100minute, um, experience.

He may be proved right. The BBC Experience is essentially an exercise in self-glorification, but by a rare institution that has reason to rejoice. New arrivals are mustered in

an exhibition area where Guglielmo Marconi's quantum leap towards wireless transmission is explained. Then you are sat down in front of a bank of seven screens to witness the logical conclusion of the pioneer's work: a filmed account of a day in the life of BBC radio, from a strident dawn chorus of Radios 1 and 5 Live to that soothing premed known as the final shipping forecast on Radio 4.

In fact, this slick presentation was put together last April - so long ago that a Conservative government was still in power and Mark Radcliffe tourists will make of it all

on Radio 1. To show that the BBC never sits still, closedcircuit cameras have been installed in key Radio 5 Live Sixty thousand licence fees studios and offices, so you can were consumed in creating see programmes being assembled and broadcast.

. Suddenly, pressurised presenters and production staff find themselves unwitting is painfully obvious: the death points of interest; I predict a



#### **SIMON** CALDER

swift enhancement of sartorial standards among radio staff. Next, the mock studio, where visitors concoct a coun-

terfeit episode of The Archers with the help of a real (or at least on-tape) Joe Grundy: much jollity as spoof Borsetshire accents collide with mistimed sound effects and a grumpy Grundy. Goodness knows what polite Japanese

begins to show when you move from a fictionalised present to the all-too-real past. Radio archive material has been cleverly intercut with images to merge 75 years of British history with the BBC, until the two are virtually congruent.

The main omission, though, of Diana. If the schedule that created the BBC Experience in just a year was thought too tight to allow late changes, the Corporation's news team could surely have demonstrated otherwise. If, on the other hand, the decision was made on grounds of decorum, why sell the video of the Princess's funeral in the shop?

The final third is a "freeflow" area, Experience-ese for a part where you can dawdle or dash through hi-tech, hands-on exhibits. You may, for example, watch transfixed as Michael Fish gets ready for a TV weather forecast. You

learn that he is the one person in the country without a clear view of the weather map; colour separation technology means he faces a near-blank patch of blue, which explains why weather presenters stick to broad sweeps of the hand in order to sustain the illusion. The BBC performs a simi-

lar trick, defying intuition yet

The Experience really somehow delivering. Enough people, inside and outside the Corporation, have shown sufficient belief that an organisation whose raison d'être is purely transient has become custodian for the spirit of a nation - and, now, purveyor of a good day out.

> If your High Street travel agency looks a little empty today, that could be because your travel agent is in Tenerife, for the annual jolly known as the Association of British Travel Agents' convention. Labour's Nigel Griffiths neatly summed up last year's event by referring to "that grey area between networking and not working".

Networking, and indeed not working, is often alcoholassisted. Every organisation with something to sell (ie all of them) plies the travel trade, and assorted hangers-on such as journalists, with impressive ranges of refreshment.

The whole soggy saga is summed up by an invite from the Belgian tourist office to "Get ABTAlutely Mannekin Pis\*\*\*!". As well as free fries and mayonnaise, the invitation promises "Barrel Loads of BEER!" And if you still haven't got the message, there's a picture of Brussels' most celebrated tourist attraction urinating into a beer glass.

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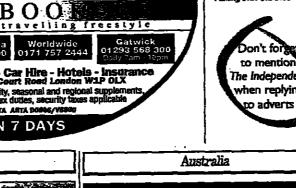
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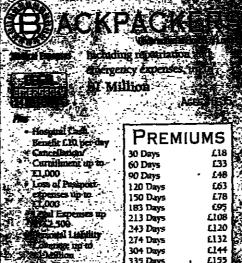
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# Seeing red when a green turns out to be black

For a good day's skiing, can you trust a piste map? Stephen Wood thinks not.

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> Guy Tillotson, a 25-year-old firefighter from London, had a weekend to kill in New York last February. He decided to go skiing. The people with whom he was staying suggested that he go to Killington, the biggest resort on the US East Coast. Tillotson checked with a couple of ski shops in the city, and they told him that there was good, challenging skiing there. So he took the train up into Vermont.

Having skied in the Alps since the age of five, Tillotson is a good skier. But he ski home, and the resort offers runs to

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make, bounce up and down

in your ski boots - then start

had never skied in America, and knew nothing of Killington. The first time he saw a piste map was on the way to the resort, and, he says, "the runs looked good on paper". Then he skied them and was very disappointed. "I would say that the toughest runs, the double-diamond blacks, were just easy

reds by alpine stan-

dards. There was noth-

ing more difficult than that." Tillotson was lucky: if he had seen the same piste map at home, showing 10 of those runs ("most difficult - use extra caution"), he might have been tempted to fly over for a week's skiing at Killington. As it was, he had paid only for a return journev from New York.

Every skier knows that you can't really trust a piste map, because every resort Anton's has effectively abolished black defines difficulty? Average gradient, or at wants its map to have the full spectrum of runs, by ceasing to mark them as pistes the steepest point? What about piste colours, from easy greens for beginners to on the map.

tough blacks for experts. One resort director I talked to admitted that although piste-grading is intended to serve as a reference by which skiers can relate runs in different resorts, it reliably shows only the relative difficulty of runs within an individual resort - because resorts cannot resist the temptation to define their most difficult runs as blacks and the easiest as green, with the reds and blues somewhere in between.

There are local idiosyncrasies to each piste map, too. Take Val d'Isère, some of whose green runs could, in the words of the Good Skiing Guide, "frighten the life out of you"; all skiers like to be able to

> valley which ostensibly cater for every ability. But a couple of them are much more difficult than the piste map suggests, and could give tired beginners and intermediates a hard time. Then there is the resort in Switzerland with a difficult black run

which, for years,

the bottom of the

was graded merely as a red. Why was this? Because, it is said, the restaurant at the top would have done less business if intermediate skiers had been frightened off

Valmorel's little idiosyncrasy is to define the piste colours differently from everywhere else (blue means "intermediate" there, instead of "easy"); St



In last month's issue of the Daily Mail Ski Magazine, its editor called for an official EU grading of pistes. "Surely it would make sense," wrote Dave Watts, "to have standard rules linking the grading of slopes to their gradient and real degree of difficulty." Which is a nice idea, but probably involves too many variables (Who width?) to be workable.

Anyway, as Ian Sykes says, grading pistes will always be an inexact science. Sykes has been managing director of the Nevis Range resort in Scotland since the resort was created - and its pistes graded - for the 1989/90 season, and be points out that snow makes a big difference to safety and skiability. "In a good winter, when there's lots of snow, we can make the runs easier. But in icy conditions those same runs will be extremely difficult."

The trouble for Sykes is that the weather changes quickly in Scotland; in the beautiful Coire Dubh snow bowl at the side of the resort, he has "seen conditions change before my own eyes: a crust can be created very quickly, and the steep red runs which drop into the bowl then become very tricky - so we have to put warning notices a thought did cross my mind: if a resort up along the ridge".

When the resort was being created,

Reading the signs: every resort wants its map to have the full spectrum of colours, from easy greens to tough blacks

Photograph: Skishoot

blacks at Nevis, or greens (although getting snow cover for the beginners' slopes was a problem until a secondary area was opened). In between there are some smooth, wide blues and tricky reds.

"We spend lot of time arguing about regrading the runs, and I suspect it's the same at every resort," says Sykes, "Some people think we don't grade conservatively enough, some the opposite - although it's very important that we don't take too much account of what experienced skiers say. We have changed one run: Yellow Belly, which drops into Coire Dubh, went from red to black."

The aim of grading, he says, is "to try to set a consistent standard, because our main concern is that people should have a good day at the resort".

Sykes adds, however, that the resort has to take care with its piste-grading, to ensure that skiers don't get into trouble. He is not surprised if some US resorts seem to be over-cautious, because of the risk they run of legal action for negligence.

"In the eight years I've been here, there has been a definite change, too: we have become much more aware that people are prepared to sue us, for everything from getting a drop of oil on their ski-suit to crashing into a fence. We've been sued on a number of occasions, and there is currently a case with our insurance company concerning a skier who was badly injured by a snowboarder."

With the advent of the litigious skier. it is understandable that some resorts - US rather than Scottish - are now inclined to exaggerate the difficulty of their runs. But after I had met the disappointed Guy Tillotson on the train back to New York. suggests that its runs are more difficult than they actually are, that's misrepresentation. there was no problem finding genuine isn't it? And you can sue for that.

#### What about a deal with free skiing, ski hire, hotel - and a free ticket for a child? Read on

New lifts, passes, deals for children and groups. Richard Holledge on developments to watch for in Austria.

Galtur

A six-seater chair lift has been installed. Two new family tickets will enable skiers to use all lifts and cable cars, such as the Silvretta transfer between Ischgl and Wirl. Ticket No 1, for two adults and two children under 19; Ticket No 2, for one adult and three children under 19.

Kirchberg The Maierikette ski area can be entirely covered with artificial snow, with more snowmachines in the Gaisberg area. The toboggan run on the Gaisberg is being extended to 3.8 kilometres long. And for those who felt the charm of the resort had been ruined by traffic, the bypass will be completed.

The Kitzbuhler Alpen Ski Pass now covers 262 lifts and cable cars, and 720km of pistes. The six-day pass, which can be used throughout a season, costs ATS 1,990 (£99.50) for adults, ATS 995 (£49.75) for children. It also provides free use of public swimming pools and ski buses. The Hahnenkammbahn now offers a nightly gondola trip with candlelit dinner. And also: ● The International Ladies Hahnenkamm Race (downbill

and super G) is on 17 and 18 January, and the Men's Downhill between 23 and 25 January. ◆ A new ski slope, "Maierl" has been prepared, plus 36km of country trails.

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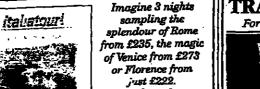
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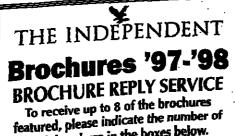
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Entries flooded in with a broad range of nominations: resorts, cities, self-catering locations, hotels and activity centres. We drew up a shortlist, and have spent the past few weeks travelling the length and breadth of England.

After much discussion, we have come up with five locations and nominations, from which a winner will be chosen at the England for Excellence awards ceremony in London on 4 November. The reader who submitted the best nomination for the holiday selected as England's finest will be invited to the ceremony - and to visit a new attraction for our regular Outings feature.

We checked out the nominations in terms of their environment (particularly in terms of child safety), outdoor activities, wet-weather entertainment, quality, value for money, sustainability and overall familv friendliness.

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In addition, according to the survey more than half of those graduates who do not take any time out, very much regret it later.

That is one of the reasons why the Royal Mail's international division has joined forces with The Independent and Campus Travel to offer a gap year competition.

The winner will be able to take a fellow gap-year friend to Australia - the first prize being two British Airways London to Sydney tickets (courtesy of Campus Travel), with the option of stopping in Thailand on the way there and back, and £2,000 spending money from Royal Mail International.

Whether or not you win, you will not come away empty-handed: all entrants will be sent the Royal Mail Gap Year Guide - a handy booklet produced in association with





Lonely Planet, providing useful advice on how to prepare for a year away - and a pack of six aerogrammes to keep in touch with

friends and family overseas, worth £1.99. To enter, simply tell us in no more than 500 words where you would go and why. if taking your gap year in Australia or the

Par East. Be it on Phuket or Port Lincoln, Murwillumbah or Mae Saraing, the essay should be both informative and entertaining - as if you were writing a letter back to friends at home.

To enter, you must be either under 26 years old or a registered student under 32 years old, and you must send your entry by Friday, 21 November to: Royal Mail/Independent Gap Year Competition, 22 Endell Street, London WC2H 9AD. The winner will be announced on these pages on 20 December. He or she must book: all travel before the end of March 1998, and complete the trip before the end of March 1999.

Campus Travel is one of the primary. suppliers of travel services to the UK's studeut and youth population. For further information about the company's "one stop shop" travel service, call 0171-730 3402 or consult its website, located at www.campustravel.co.uk/-

Usual Newspaper Publishing rules apply, and the decision of the judges at Royal Mail International, The Independent and Campus travel will be final. Happy writing, and happy travels.

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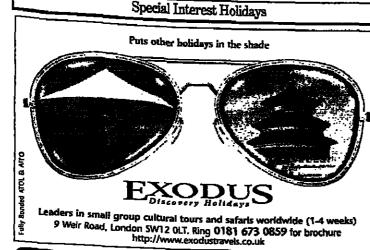
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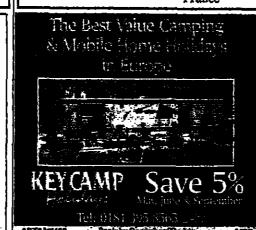
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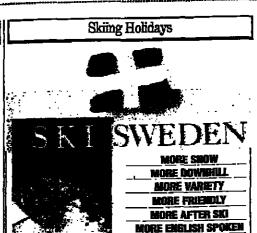
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How does Britain's biggest science gallery measure up, for a six-yearold and a teenager? Sarah jewell finds out whether the Natural History Museum really does appeal across the ages.

The magnificent, cathedral-like building of the Natural History Museum was designed by a Victorian architect, Alfred Waterhouse, as a place worthy of "housing the works of the Creator". And that's still how it is today. Yet the sense of awe which the Victorian public would have felt at viewing thousands of newly-discovered animal, plant and mineral specimens has changed to wonderment at the man-made exhibits on display.

The museum has risen to the challenge of the theme-led Nineties with an impressive range of exhibits - including the death-throes of robotic, life-size dinosaurs, the power within a volcano, and the ecology of the Serengeti Plain.

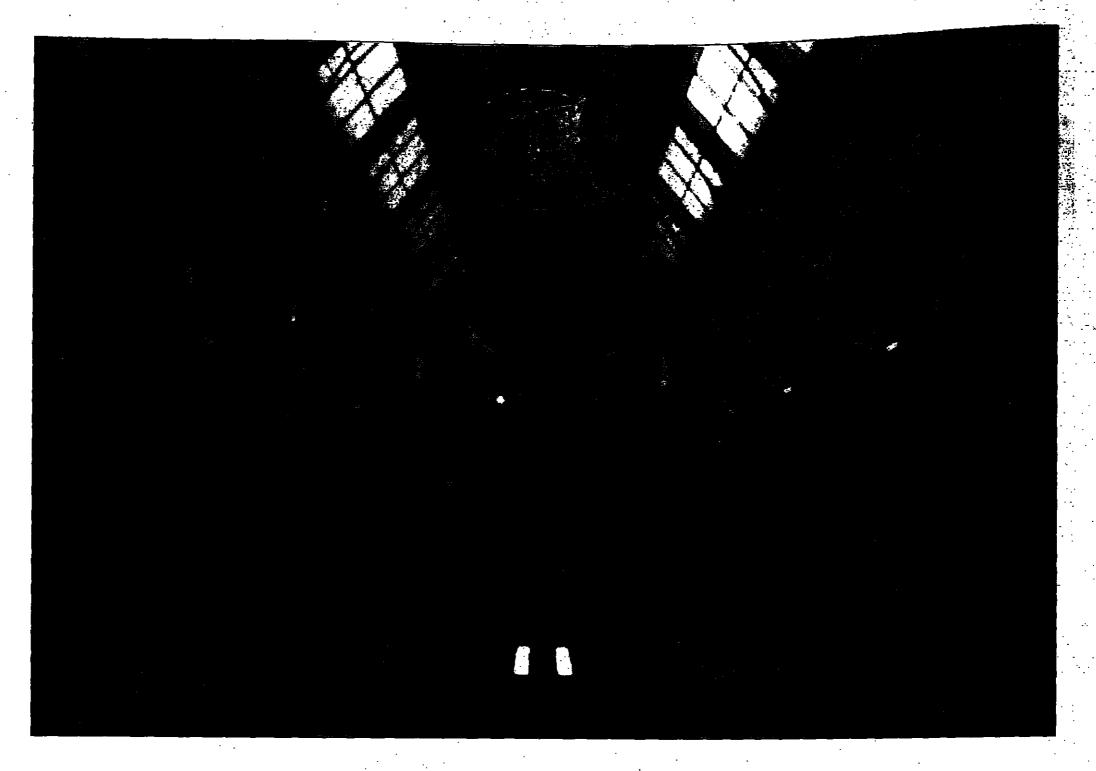
Sarah Jewell took her niece Agnes Arnold-Forster, six, and Claire Bratley, an A-level student aged 17

Sarah: The exhibits throughout the museum are targeted at different ages and interests, but the Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition, which has just opened, will appeal to all ages. The 150 winning images, chosen from over 20,000 entries, reflect the extraordinary beauty and diversity of the animal kingdom, from the electric blue angel fish of the Cayman Islands to the elegant grass snake of Oxfordshire.

The earth sciences do not have the universal appeal of the animal world, but the glass model of the "Star of Africa" the new Earth Galleries have been designed specifically to try to inspire interest in the earth's internal forces. The visitor rises earite collection: extraordinary, huge lumps on an escalator through the centre of a of black rock from outer space that are as huge globe suffused with purple and green light to "the power within", an explanation of the natural forces within the earth that cause volcanoes and earthquakes, I found the loud, futuristic mu- tween the three of us we managed to visit sic and the mass of information presented most of the exhibits. on TV screens, videos, labels and interactive gadgets hard to absorb, but the sim- too tiring to try and look at everything in ulation of the Kobe earthquake in 1995 was chillingly realistic.

In contrast to the noise and technology of the Earth Galleries, the mineral exhibits Agnes: I liked the mammals best, because on the first floor are quietly old-fashioned. The long, airy room is laid out with a neat row of polished wooden, glass-topped cabinets containing the museum's meticulously labelled mineral collection. There are 12,600 specimens on display, all grouped according to their chemical composition and crystal structure.

A uniformed warder, as rare a sight as the gemstones he was protecting, stood



### Variations on a theme of dinosaurs

guard over the precious metals. Big, ragged lumps of gold panned during the 19th-century Californian gold rush gleamed near the largest diamond in the world.

At the far end of the room is the metmystical as the tiny, brown, glistening

The old and the new are juxtaposed neatly throughout the museum, and be-

one day - particularly if you're with small

of how big the whale was - I never thought that it would be that big, and its eyes so small. I liked seeing the other animals lined up in size next to the whale. Even the stuffed elephant looked really small, and the sheep looked tiny. I liked listening on a special telephone to the trumpeting of the elephant and the singing noises of the dolphin.

I also really liked the "Creepy Crawlies" room because there was lots of information



Eye-eye: Jim Stamates' photograph of a vine snake, highly commended in the Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition. Top: housing the works of the creator' - the National History Museum

ent types of insects live - like little bugs in tween its claws.

and it was easy to understand. I learnt how the kitchen in the flour and beetles in the little insects grow, and there were lots of carpet and flies in the rubbish. There was machines to play with. We went inside a spe- a huge, moving scorpion, and some childcial house which showed where all differ- ren were trying to stuff their notepads be-

I didn't really like the Earth Galleries because they were a bit scary, and they told you a lot of things that I didn't understand. but I liked learning how it felt to be in an earthquake. It is a very full museum and I would like to go back again and spend an even longer time there.

Claire: My first thoughts about the museum were that it would be full of eccentric professors with small round spectacles, as it seemed like such an old-fashioned and full place to visit. After spending the day there, however, my prejudices were overself more than I expected, and I really had a good day out.

As I am studying A-level biology and geography I was most interested to see the human biology exhibits and the Earth Galleries. I enjoyed the human biology best. It is well laid out and explains clearly how our bodies work using models, videos, slides

and gadgets. I enjoyed fiddling with the gadgetry in the Earth Galleries, but that didn't hold my attention for long. Most of the information I already knew from my A-level course, and although the exhibition is big and bold I thought it would be more interesting for

I enjoyed the dinosaur exhibition: I liked the huge skeletons suspended in mid-air, and the roaring, robotic dinosaurs feasting on a freshly killed tenontosaurus. The exhibition on The Origin of Species and Charles Darwin was also interesting.

The Natural History Museum is on Cromwell Road, London SW9 (0171-938 9123). Opening times: Mon-Sat 10am-5.50pm, Sun 11am-5.50pm (closed 23-26

December). years, children under 5 feee), £3,20 concessions, £16 family ticket (2 adults and up to 4 children).

Access: Wheelchair and pushchair ac-

cess to all areas. Toilets and baby-changing facilities: Clean, plentiful, plus toilets for the disabled. Catering: Restaurant, café and snack

bars, plus picnic area during school holidays and at weekends for eating packed

Shop: Gift and book shops full of reasonably-prices goodies.

Education: Free National Curriculumbased tours for schools.

### Floating around in the South-west

All singing, all dancing -Somerset dresses up this month, with thousands of pounds, man-hours and lightbulbs being used up in the name of charity. It's carnival season again, as David Foster discovers.

A ripple of applause rattles the cold November night as two magnificent police horses turn slowly into Sadler Street. Every move is measured, deliberate, almost stately.

Blue lights scour the ancient buildings as the city's fire engine, followed by the ambulance, swings around the corner. The crowd draws breath, and presses back on to the narrow pavements; small children wriggle to the front. The music grows inexurably louder, and a cheer breaks out as the first float lurches into view. Carnival is underway in Wells.

Putting the emergency services at the front of the parade isn't just showmanship. There's no other way they could respond to a call this evening: for the next few hours, around 100 immense floats will be grinding through the city at walking pace.

At the centre of each float is the



Bobbing along: in the first two weeks of November the floats will cover 360 miles Photograph: NSTT

pounds, and taken many months to 100ft in length. construct.

Drenched in light and deafened by their own music, performers in lavish costumes whirl through the air, singing and dancing, or stand like waxworks in the still-life tableaux. Most carts are pulled by a decorat-"cart" - a poor name for a vehicle that ed tractor, and all have generators, will have cost tens of thousands of completing a train of vehicles up to

By any standards, this would be a remarkable show. Yet Wells is just one of seven venues on Bridgwater's Guy Fawkes carnival circuit, which includes Glastonbury, Shepton Mallet and Weston-super-mare. In the first two weeks of November these floats will cover some 360 miles, at a top speed of around 15 mph; the traffic jams are legendary, though nowadays most of

the journeys are made overnight. Every float is the product of a dedicated Carnival Club. Ideas start flying around early in January, and by mid-February, says Mini Sheppard of Mendip Vale CC, "people come forward with drawings, costume fabric samples, taped music and even models" to illustrate their suggestions. By and she took over from him as sec-

Easter, the talking will be over, and retary after his death in 1984. Mini, a welder by trade, will join the carpenters, electricians and engineers who devote every spare hour of easier, but a particular headache the next seven months to construct-

ing the Mendip Vale float. 30 or 40 powerful floodlights. Last year's Shooting Stars, from the Wellsbased Gorgons CC, also boasted a 6kilowatt sound system. Many of the big generators that power the electrics are hired from a specialist firm in Staffordshire, and two of their own fitters come down every year to tend the equipment.

Even so, things do occasionally go wrong. "Two or three of the crew were in tears one year when the lights went out", confided Mini. But that was not the worst that can happen.

Gorgons' Chairman Paul Phipps recalls climbing the steep hill out of Shepton Mallet about six years ago. and ripping the front axle from under Dr Who. "Luckily, when the cart came down, one of the main struts dug into the road and the whole thing stopped dead. The police were quite impressed, so we didn't tell them there weren't any brakes."

Pulling the whole event together is the Wells Carnival committee. Forty years ago, Nancy Dodd met her husband Cecil through the carnival,

In some ways, she says, Wells's new relief road has made the team's job this year is the traffic calming that followed in its wake. "There's one set A typical float may have seven or of traffic lights they're going to have eight thousand lightbulbs, as well as to move", she says - and Tarmac ramps will be needed over many of the new kerbstones.

Nobody seems to mind. After all, it's all in aid of local charities, and after the dust has settled, the Mayorusually hosts a presentation evening in the Town Hall. "It gives the people an opportunity to talk to each other, and they're always quite surprised at the number of charitable organisations that there are", says Nancy

As the clamour of the last float dies away, the crowd folds into the roadway behind it. Small boys search the gutters for stray coins, and happy faces head towards Market Place, to spend their new-found treasure at the fair.

Bridgwater Carnival dates: Bridgwater, 6 November; North Petherton, 8 November: Burnham-on- Sea/Highbridge, 10 November, Shepton Mallet, 12 November; Wells, 14 November; Glastonbury, *15* November, Weston-super-mare, 17 November.

Tourist information: Wells: 01749 672552: Weston-super-mare: 01934

#### PIT STOP

If you're going to Wells for the carnival, drop into the Good Earth at 4 Priory Road (01749 678600) for lunch or tea. This is a wholefood shop? with a restaurant along Lunchtime side. savouries (often priced for either large or small

portions) include homemade soup (tomato and. Spring Onion, Watercress. and lemon), vegetable lasagne, sweet and sour vegetables and pizza with a choice of top.

pings. Children are well catered for, with babychanging facilities, highchairs and, in a leafy courtyard, a play area Open 9.30am to 5.30pm

From Egon Ronay's guide And Children Come Too', Bookman, £9.99.

## 11/GARDENING

THE INDEPENDENT SATURDA' 1 NOVEMBER 199

## Steiner's philosophy on compost: the plot thickens

How do you cure the ills of the Earth? According to the philosopher Rudolf Steiner, you need to reunite spirit and soil with a compost containing some alarming animal and vegetable ingredients. Kirsty Fergusson explains.

There is something addictive about making compost. Whether it lies in the texture, the smell, the creation of an economy, a routine, the daily interaction between kitchen and garden, who knows? One thing is certain: compost can bring out the obsessive in the mildest of spirits. Catch yourself trying to retrieve a teabag, inadvertently dropped in the bin, and you'll realise that you too have become an addict.

Rudolf Steiner (1861-1925) was a compost addict. Better known, of course, as a philosopher and educationalist, Steiner revealed his passion for the brown crumbly stuff in a small tome, entitled On Agriculture, published in 1923. It is oddly prescient in some ways, given the newness and innocent emergence of the agrochemical industry at that time; Steiner not only championed organic cause the organic bond between

century alchemy and derived his forrecipes, spiced up with his own perceptions. The preparations, as he termed them, are not impossible to follow, but they will cause an eyebrow or two to be raised in your local butcher's shop. They are as follows: one stag's bladder stuffed with the flowers of wild yarrow (Achillea millefolium), one cow's mesentery (most important to ask the butcher which is the inside part of this bit of the gut, because the outside must stay on the outside) stuffed with dande- readily), you strew the straws into should be organic.

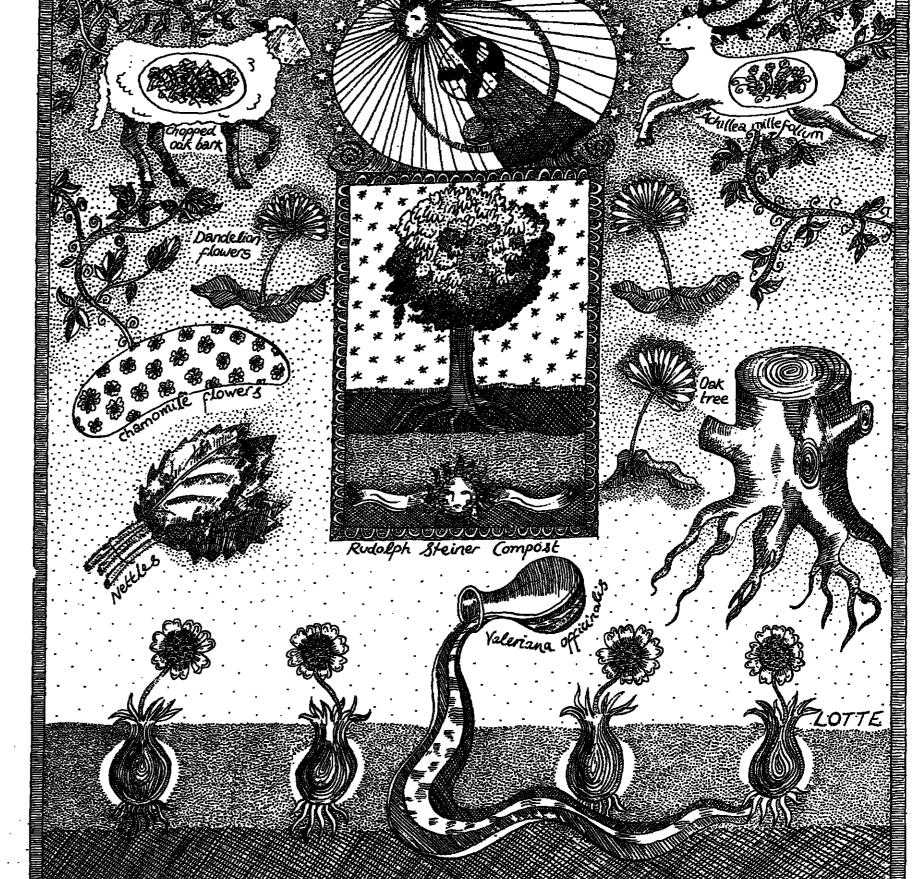
lion flowers, one skull of a cow, goat. sheep or pig filled with chopped oak bark, preferably from a youngish tree, a bunch of stinging nettles wrapped in peat moss, a length of bovine intestine filled with chamomile flowers and, lastly, the juice extracted by crushing some valerian flowers.

Steiner doesn't say whether he means red valerian (Centranthus niber) or the pinky-white common valerian (Valeriana officinalis). The latter just might be the more acceptable one, because the flowers have a nice, vanilla-like perfume, which would help to mitigate the smell of all that offal.

It probably stacks up to a day's work in the summer (provided the butcher has been given a bit of advance notice) doing all that collecting, stuffing and crushing. Five large, sausage-shaped ingredients and a cup of liquid should be the result. Alternatively, and slightly unbelievably, you can get them by mail order. The Biodynamic Association will send you the preparations (dried), with instructions for use. However obtained, the sausagey

parcels and juice should be inserted into the centre of an existing compost heap, or buried in a soil stack, where they must remain all winter. It seems only right to entrust the "preps" (as old hands at this game cern for a planet sick both in spirit call them) to a suitable compost and soil. Or more accurately, sick be- heap. Somehow, a plastic, dalekshaped barrel will not do. Let it not soil and spirit had been ruptured. The be forgotten that the aim of Steiner cure? A very special kind of compost. compost is not just to enrich the soil Steiner was fascinated by 17th- organically, but to reunite the earth with its severed spirit. This calls for a long, fat row and roll it, as though mula for cosmic compost from old a little imagination in the construction of the heap. Perhaps the best model for this originated in America (where they have entire magazines devoted just to compost); a circle is composed of wooden stakes set about 50cm apart, pushed firmly into the ground (freshly cut hazel or ash would be ideal), measuring roughly 1.5m in diameter and height.

Then, having obtained a bale of



rolling a sausage out of Plasticine. Some soft twine should hold the thick rope of straw together, which may then be woven in and out of the upright stakes. The straw will decompose along with the contents of the big "basket" so that the container (minus the stakes) as well as the compost within can eventually be used on the garden. It goes without saying that, whether or not it is aes-

#### Rudolf's recipe

I stag's bladder stuffed with wild yarrow flowers I cow's mesentery (gut) stuffed with dandelion flowers I skull of cow, goat, sheep or pig, filled with chopped oak bank I bunch stinging nettles wrapped in peat moss I length bovine intestine filled with chamomile flowers juice of crushed valerian flowers

degraded and are worked into the ex- to feel slightly sceptical; even if you isting heap or soil stack, the benefits meet Steiner gardeners who swear by

Back to the plot and, come the and mysteries of alchemical compost spring, when all the ingredients have await your garden. It is not difficult

the stuff and produce gorgeously tasty, big vegetables, you may well be Steiner doesn't give the answer persuaded that any good, rich compost would have achieved the same result. And there are older gardeners around who would add that this or that flourishing vine was planted ing the spiritual as well as the ph over the corcass of a dead calf. ("We ical health of the soil - and cuting: knew we'd dug the hole big enough for the plant if we could get a calf in some and enlightened to others. I too.") Who could possibly prescribe real compost addicts, though, a recipe for exactly the right blend challenge of creating Steiner comp of animal, vegetable and mineral in- will prove irresistible. gredients? Why a bovine intestine rather than a sheep's intestine; why

chamomile and not rosemary, sa that, and a large amount of trust faith is required to make the exerc

worth the effort. Whatever the prescription, rest consequences - will sound cranky

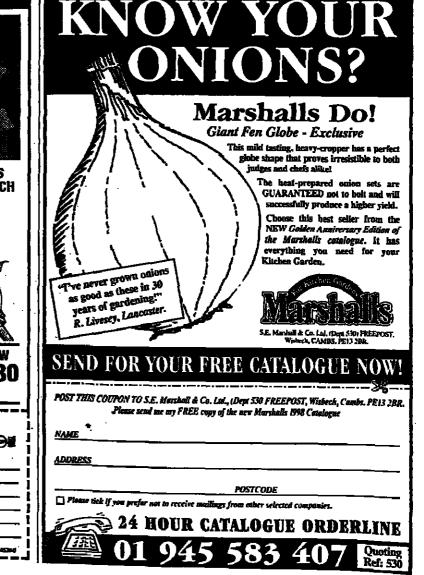
Anna Payord is av

### GARDENING

FAX: 0171 293 2505







NOVEMBER 1997

THE INDEPENDENT

## 12/GARDENING

### Get pruning, get planting, get fired up

lutumn is a crucial time or the gardener. Naila ireen on what you should e doing this weekend

luilding a bonfire is a great prortunity to check out trees efore autumn gales bring nwn dead wood, but don't urn leaves or other comostible material.

Finish off fruit and ornasental tree pruning, cutting ut damaged, diseased or cossing branches. If you idn't get around to pruning our wisteria in August, you in now cut all the long shoots ack to two buds, thus keeping under control and encouragg flowers. Finish pruning nd training your rambler roswetting out old stems that we carried flowers, and tying : new shouts. On most variies the old growth should be runed back hard to soil level,

so encouraging new growth next spring.

It's not too late to plant tulips. Most bulbs can be planted 15-20cm (6-8in) deep and the same apart. Larger ones can be planted 25cm (10in) deep, allowing you to plant spring bedding over the

In the flower borders, cut back herbaceous plants and split up any that have become congested. Small pieces with a bud and some root can be potted up, labelled and kept in a cold frame for replanting in spring. Plant out hardy lilies, preparing the soil well and ensuring a free-draining site. Spring bedding can be planted now, to fill gaps in the flower

In the greenhouse, finish sowing sweet peas, with several seeds in each deep pot or special tube of compost. Thin to leave the strongest, or leave

them all to plant out in a

In the kitchen garden, finish planting garlic, though in very cold and wet areas delay until spring. Plant 10cm (4in) apart in well-drained soil, in a sunny spot, with the tip of the clove just below the soil surface. Each clove will develop

Christmas Fayre

into a new garlic bulb.

Cut down asparagus ferns when the foliage has turned yellow, burning the leaves to destroy overwintering asparagus beetle. Rooted strawberry runners should be planted as soon as possible, digging in plenty of organic matter and

In milder areas, trim conifer hedges for the last

time, as soon as possible. Autumn trimming is not recommended in colder areas as the resultant new growth may be killed by frost. Protect narrow, upright conifers from the risk of wind and snow damage by loosely wrapping the trees



Strawberries fair: use plenty of organic matter (left). Time for tulips: get your buibs in soon (above)

Photographs: Garden Picture Library

post or manure. with wire or netting. Don't add fertiliser, but do November is a good time mulch well to prevent compet-

to plant evergreen shrubs, ition from weeds. Shrubs or conifers and hedging plants. Complete planting as soon as conifers growing in the wrong place can also be moved now. you can, to take advantage of Lift with as large a rootball as the still warm soil conditions possible, replanting into a well which will encourage root prepared hole which has been growth. Prepare planting sites well, digging in plenty of comdeeply dug with compost.

Delay this until spring if your soil is prone to waterlogging. A windbreak for such newly planted evergreens using posts and netting or fleece is an excellent idea. Finally, watch out for hibernating hedgehogs before lighting

your bonfire, and take care not to let the fire spread.

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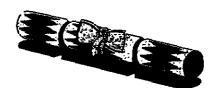
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Read on if to hear a h

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## 13/RURAL

## Where the wool-gathering begins



Diversification is the name of the game, but will it pay off? Three humming, exotically woolly arrivals startle the denizens of a peaceful farmyard.

I give three clues to their identity: 1. Their names are Shadrach, Meshak

and Abed-nego.

2. One is cream-coloured, one chocolate sprinkled with ginger, one dark grey with a white face, black hat and white tips to his ears.

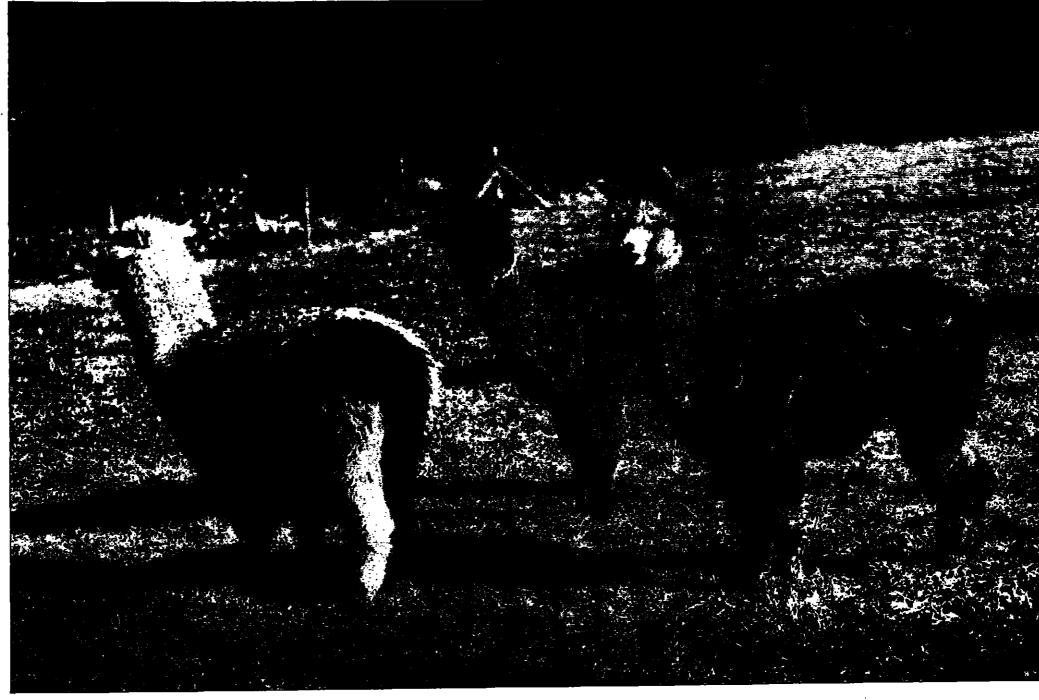
3. When alarmed, they communicate their nervousness by means of a gentle, melodious humming.

You guessed, of course: they are alpacas, smaller cousins of llamas, and the newest recruits to our menagerie. Their arrival in our farmyard caused quite a stir. During their three-hour journey from Sussex they had had the sense to fold their legs and sit on the floor of the horse-box, but when we let down the ramp they came bounding out, to the horror of the long-term residents.

Not only to us humans, but to animals and birds also, it was immediately clear that these furry creatures were an exotic species. Sheep glowered; horses snorted; a hen trailing eight chicks put in a fullblown screech-up, flying off on to a fence and cackling at the top of her voice. So strident were her warnings of danger that the chicks disappeared into a bed of nettles, and we had difficulty recovering them before nightfall.

neutered males, about nine months old stuck together in a tight bunch, tails together, facing outwards in different directions, as they sized up their new surroundings. They also gave off a curious humming sound that denotes anxiety.

By morning they were fairly well settled, and we were fascinated to see that their behaviour, conformation and movements were all subtly different from those of more familiar animals. Their bodies could be those of sheep, but their long legs and necks betray the fact that they are camelids - and indeed their feet, though two-toed at the front, like a sheep's, have a camel-like pad



Alpacas, the smaller cousins of llamas: their bodies could be those of sheep, but their long legs and neck betray them as camelids

Photograph: Christopher Jones

other, spitting and laying back their ears and extremes of heat and cold. as they try to put in an under-belly nip, their chief characteristic seems to be gentleness. Because they are so graceful and entertaining to watch, they are fearful time-

We got them from a farm near Billingshurst, where Kelvin Maude, an Australian, manages a herd of 700. Together with two brothers, Alan and Peter Hamilton, he runs a company that has pioneered the export of animals from Chile.

When we hove up, prospective purchasers, Kelvin assured us that alpacas are "amazingly adaptable animals". Originally lowland grazers, they were slaughtered They graze energetically, with quick, by the invading Spaniards in the 16th cent-

thrusting movements of the lower jaw, and ury to make way for sheep and cattle, and them flourishing in Australia. canter with a springy, loping action. They the survivors were taken on by peasant seem to enjoy communal rolling, and alhough they occasionally spar up to each animals adapted to thin air, poor grazing fusal to accept that Chile had adequate con-

#### **DUFF** HART-DAVIS

When, early in the Nineties, the new company proposed to export consignments to Australia, sceptics claimed the alpacas would never survive the sudden descent to sea level, followed by life in a much hotter climate. Experience proved

For years plans to bring alpacas here trol of foot-and-mouth disease. But eventually objections were overcome and in December 1994 Kelvin went out to Chile "to put together UK 1" - that is, to assemble the first consignment for Britain.

He found them on the altiplano, in the northern tip of Chile, close to the borders of Peru and Bolivia, at altitudes of between 14,000 and 16,000 feet. Three hundred beasts went into open-air quarantine at Putre, the highest town in Chile, where they spent four months. Next they were moved down to Arica on the Pacific coast, for another two months' quarantine at sea level, during which they went through numerous tests. Then they were loaded into big them wrong: there are now nearly 2,000 of wooden crates and flown by cargo plane via Alpaca Society has 110 members, and a ough, W Sussex RH20 2HL (01798 812218)

Teneriffe to Manchester.

Travelling with them, Kelvin was delighted to see how calm they remained during the 15-hour flight. All 300 survived and went to Cumbria for a final, three-mor spell of quarantine, before they arrived in Sussex at the end of January 1996.

UK2, a second batch, also of 300, oined them in November last year. This consignment included many pregnant females, and I now realise that our three youngsters, though born in England, must have made the 6,000-mile journey from Chile in the womb - a fact that seems to render them all the more remarkable.

The aim of the UK enterprise is to breed selectively and to create a market for alpaca fibre, or wool, which is beautifully soft and light, and after processing can command £50-£60 a kilo. Already the British Arunvale Alpacas, Gay St Farm, Pulbor-

committee has begun to look into forming a co-operative to pool and sell fibre.

With so few animals in the country as yet, prices are astronomical: about £7.000 nant female. Wethers cost burely a tenth as much - but even so, it is going to be a big moment, next June, when we shear for the first time, and my wife starts spinning the wool to make fabulous jerseys.

We could not resist naming our three after the biblical trio who defied King Nebuchadnezzar and survived the fiery furnace unscathed. But in the alpacas' defence I must point out that they do not wear asbestos underwear, as in the scurrilous Bible song. Rather, their woolly trousers extend right down to their ankles, giving them a look both stylish and faintly absurd.

### Read on if you want to hear a howler

A wolf as a pet? Not a good idea. But what about adopting one? David Wilson is tempted.

Here I am on a balmy autumn day in a cage with two wolves. I laugh nervously; enclosed wolves can get very territorial (last year in Ontario a keeper was killed). The female, Kenai, darts behind me and sniffs vociferously. I turn, and try to keep her at bay with my hand. Time seems to slow down as she opens her jaws, a bright look in her eyes - and bites.

The sensation is like the nip of a kitten. Maybe she was just saying hello. Feeling foolish, I stroke her coat - surprisingly coarse, like coir - and notice that unlike a dog she seems to have no smell. I watch but avoid meeting the golden, glowing eyes.

It all seems very dream-like. But I really am at the Wolf Hust in the rambling grounds of Butler's Farm near Reading. The trust was set up in 1972 by Roger Palmer to conserve wolves and encourage respect

certificate, a photograph of here, seeing her as a rival.

your particular wolf, one free visit, which allows you to interact with your adopted animal, and a report on a year in the wolf's life. It seems a reasonable deal, and Palmer knows about business. He was once Kleinwort Benson's European investment strategist.

These days, since developing a brain tumour "the size of an orange", he takes life more easily, but his mobile rings about every 10 minutes. And he's limping, having fallen from his horse the day before in a

He talks admiringly of Kodiak, the male wolf - all chest and bushy tail: a classic alpha specimen. Kodiak wriggies and quivers with energy, as if he could run for miles, which wolves can, almost tirelessly, at 25mph.

Surprisingly, in view of current concern about the danger of dogs with wolf blood, Palmer says: "Away from his territory, Kodiak's virtually like a lapdog. That's why we can take him to a school, with 100 six-year-olds all crowding around him."

By contrast Kenai, the female, is highly strung: thin, nervy, terrified of cars, and submissive - up to a point. She killed Denali, the third wolf

Palmer sees the wolves as "living ambassadors for conservation - and they like it: they preen themselves and have great charisma when they're visiting people". But what's the attraction of

"adopting" a wolf? Colin Thorne, 36, an electrician, has signed up. Wolves fascinate me," he says, "because they're totally unpredictable. The best experience I've

had with the wolves was at the Newbury show. The huskies on the stand behind started howling, and then three minutes later the wolves answered. It was awesome. People started coming from every direction to see. You can understand why the Red Indians treated wolves as hunting gods? spirits."

Palmer's own involvement began during the late Sixties, at St Louis zoo. He says he "fell in love" with a wolf he saw, on account of its beauty and grace. And such qualities are cer-

tainly in demand. Kodiak and Kenai are, in fact, film stars. Their screen appearances include Dracula, with Sir Laurence Olivier; An American Werewolf in London; and The Company of Wolves, where red signs warned: "Danger, wild wolves loose on set." One wolf



girl's lap - two riflemen stood

kill? Palmer hesitates. "Yes." He scorns such defence, em-

guard. Were they prepared to traordinarily, they lack the self-preservation. Hardly surprotective maternal instinct. So

had to put its head in a little phasising that wolves rarely at their young from a perceived tack people. This is because, ex- threat. Their main concern is prising, since humanity has they don't attempt to defend hunted them relentlessly; the

Alpha specimen: a healthy adult timber wolf is a magnificent sight

Photograph: Paul Hobson/Planet. Earth Pictures

#### NATURE NOTE

In our part of the world, this autumn has brought a tremendous harvest of acoms. Does this mean, as traditional wisdom has it, that we are in for a hard winter? No, say professional foresters; it means the exact opposite - that we had good weather earlier in the year, and that the oaks enjoyed a favourable spring and summer. The bumper crop has no bearing on winter.

Yet in producing so heavily the trees may also have been reacting to the stress of drought in midsummer, and unconsciously seeking to ensure the survival of their kind by fruiting abundantly. Experiments have shown that if bark is deliberately removed from trees, causing stress, they often react by increasing their output.

Oddly enough, this season's berry crop is poor: rowans and hollies are already bare, and some birds are in for a lean time. This scarcity reflects the patchiness of late frosts in April and May, blossom in some hedgerows escaped, but in others it was caught and blasted.

**Duff Hart-Davis** 

last wild British wolf was killed Palmer has been an honour. in Scotland in 1743.

reintroducing wolves in the Scottish Highlands, where they can prey on the deer that have run riot and are systematically stripping the forests. He feels such a move is almost inevitable, and could happen

within the next 50 years. Meeting Kodiak, Kenai and

But one thing is missing: a Palmer supports the idea of howl. Eventually, before I leave, one echoes across the fields, surprisingly high and rounded - it's more enchanting than menacing.

> For further information on the Wolf Trust, send an sac to UK Wolf Centre, Butlers Farm, Been ham, Reading, Berks RG7 5N

Taking in marsh harriers and ghostly churches, Emma Haughton takes a walk through the solitary landscape of Suffolk.

This seven-mile walk hasn't the advantage of being circular, but what it lacks in convenience it amply compensates for in diversity and beauty. The countryside, part of the 150square-mile Suffolk Coasts and Heaths area of outstanding natural beauty, is unfailingly screne and a sanctuary for many kinds of wildlife.

One way or another, get yourself to the small, attractive Suffolk village of Westleton, in spring, the village pond next to the pub chokes with impossibly cute brown and sellow ducklings. At whatever time of year, though, take some bread and you'll instantly find yourself the irresistible object of ducky affection. When you have had enough (they never will), head up the green and along the Blythhurgh road towards Southwold; just outside the village a footpath on your right marked to St Helena takes you down a covered from floor to ceiling

grassy track towards Dunwich

When you intersect the dirt track, turn left, then right diagonally through the pine forest. Head towards Rookyard wood across sandy paths littered with pine needles and fir cones, then turn right at the large track and walk until you see a sign for Walberswick Nature Reserve. The path stretches through lovely woods of birch, holly, oak and chestnut, passing an inexplicably abandoned railway carriage; when it narrows to a fork, turn sharp left towards Sandy Lane farm (you'll know it from the flock of noisy geese) and con-tinue until you bit the Dunwich

If you're hungry. Dunwich provides the perfect detour. The Ship Inn serves a range of hot meals, but the fish and chips at the Flora Tea Rooms on the seafront are legendary. Coachloads of visitors flock to this undistinguished black clap-board building for enormous fresh cod, haddock and plaice (£4.95), skyscraper sundaes in every flavour, and wonderful home-made jammy doughnuts. Eat inside, and enjoy a veritable kingdom of kitsch; the walls are

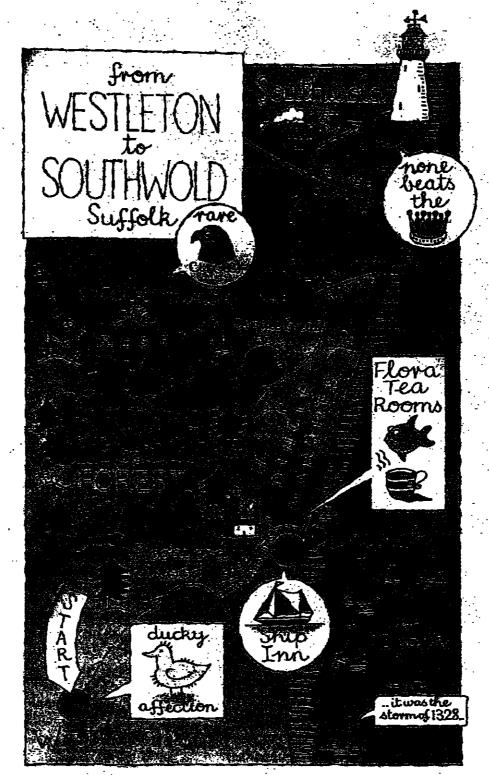
with garish tea-towels of every description.

Dunwich museum charts the rise and fall of this now diminutive village, once the largest port in East Anglia, with 12 churches. The violent storm of 1328 and relentless coastal erosion eventually claimed the churches and 1.350 houses; at low tide you can sometimes see the remains of All Saints church, which fell into the sea in 1919.

Alternatively, turn left up the road, then left again into the pebbly bridleway at Bridge Farm. Through the occasional gaps in the hedgerows you can look past cows grazing on Dingle marshes towards Dunwich beach. Keep on for a mile or so, cutting through Fowburrow Wood and down towards the

Once through Sandymount Covert, follow the footpath on to Walberswick marshes, skirting Dingle Great Hill (more of a hillock), until the path meets Dunwich River. Keep going past the disused windmill, hop over the stile, and take the first right through the reeds. If you get lost, head towards Walber-

vick spire in the distance. Don't forget to take a break



The countryside, part of the 150square-mile Suffolk Coasts and Heaths area of outstanding natural beauty, is unfailingly serene and a sanctuary for many kinds of wildlife

likustration: Sally Kindberg

and absorb the sounds of this solitary landscape, the incessant swish of the reeds and distant waves on the beach. These marshes shelter a number of rare birds, including the bearded tit, found in only a few places in Britain, and the majestic marsh harrier, sometimes seen circling in the sky above

the reedbeds. Bear right uphill above the marshes, and through the fields and lanes leading to Walberswick Church Church Lane takes you past the ruins of the 15th-century tower, once a monument to the prosperity of this small fishing village. Cut right behind the houses until you meet the Tarmac track leading to Southwold; on your left you'll see a seat commemorating the site of Walberswick station, the penultimate stop on the narrow gauge line from Halesworth to Southwold that was abandoned in 1929.

You'll follow part of the route of the old railway as you pass through Walberswick common, once used for grazing sheep and cattle, now overgrown with gorse, bracken and heather, and over the bridge across the River Blyth, with its cluster of yachts and fishing boats. As you push on

through Woodsend and Busscreek marshes, the giant concrete water tower looms ever larger, superimposed on the cheerful town of Southwold its spire and stumpy white lighthouse unfailingly romantic in any weather.

Turn right towards Southwold common, cutting across the golf course and bypassing the water tower, until you reach the outskirts of this genteel resort. Southwold offers many good places to eat, but none beating The Crown (roasted peppers and vegetable risotto with sweet pepper dressing, casserole of local beef and sundried tomato mash, and baked trout fillet with canton spices, are typical offerings for £8). But the heart of the town is the Adnams brewery (hence the ubiquitous smell of hops), and wherever you go you can be sure of a pint of Broadside.

This walk can be followed on Ordnance Survey Pathfinder maps 966 and 987.

The 167 bus service runs from Southwold to Westleton on Sundays and public holidays at 12.55pm and 3.55pm. A taxi will cost you £9 with A to B Taxis (01 502 722111) or Southwold Shuttle (01502 725073).

#### **GAMES**

#### BAWN O'BEIRNE RANELAGH DON'T JUNK IT - USE IT

Lampshades are generally rather duil, or expensive, or both. Here's how to make an attractive lamp from a shopping bag. 1. Find a sturdy paper shopping bag with a design you like. I always use a "Shakers" bag because of the slogan printed down its

side: "Beauty rests on utility." So true, don't you agree? 2. Cut a thin piece of plywood - or MDF or

acrylic - to just under the size of the base.

3. Acquire a lampholder - I have used a recycled ceiling rose - and wire it, chipping a bit out of the edge so the wire can lie flat. Do not attach the plug yet.



4. Glue the lampholder to the centre of the plywood. 5. Clip a small hole at the hottom edge of the bag where you want the wire to emerge. Reinforce it with one or two of those ring reinforcers you find lying around.

6. Drop the plywood base into the bottom of the bag and thread the wire through the hole.

7. Important: Use a coldburning, low-wattage bulb (the energy-saving fluorescent type). If you use a normal buib your bag will catch fire and your

house will burn down. 8. Now you can put the plug on, plug it in, and wait for your visitors to gaze at your shopping bag light in wonder and envy.

#### GAME OF THE WEEK WILLIAM HARTSTON

"Educational" and "Entertaining" are usually mutually contradictory terms when applied to children's games. Can there, indeed, be any more depressing information on a game's box than to learn that it conforms to stage two of the National Curriculum? Sumitup, from Positive Games Limited (price £14.99) makes no such claim, but does describe itself as "the board game that makes numbers fun. And if you have a child of primary school age or just below, you will probably agree.

The game is best described as Scrabble with numbers instead of letters. As in the word game, players hold a hand of seven tiles and can score points by laying them down on a board to make up a crossword formation. But instead of making words, the idea is to spell out correct sums. The tiles each have a single digit on one side, and an arithmetical symbol,  $+, -, x, \div$  or = on the other. Each number scores its face value, while the symbols score 1 for plus, 2 for minus, 5 for multiplication, and 10 for division. You can also double your score by matching the colour of your tile (they come in green, blue, ted and yellow as well as a standard off-white) to the colour of the square on the board.

The makers recommend starting younger children off with just the red and white tiles. (which demand only simple addition), then gradually adding the other colours as numeracy develops. Simple, clever and educational. And fun, too.

#### PANDORA MELLY GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

#### Patrick Uden, 51, television producer

Life is fundamentally a game, isn't it? You make your own rules and try to win without getting violent or losing your temper.

If you read books on military strategy, the tacticians will tell you that winning is really a case of putting yourself into the mind of the opponent. You can operate either within your resources - which may be winnings from a previous game - or you can duck and weave, using sleight of hand and all the rest of it.

Running a production company is a team game of sorts, but the rules are more flexible. The players are individuals, all admittedly singing off the same hymn-sheet, but at the same time bringing their own very clear idea

of what they're supposed to do. If I have to use a simile, then it's more like leading a platoon of skilled SAS soldiers on their way to recapture an embassy. They've all got their own particular role: one's going to shimmy up the rope, another's going to drop through the roof or throw a flash grenade

through the window, and in the end, Bob's vour uncle.

It's a group enterprise, and the job of the director is simply to corral that skill. Having a tyrannical leader with others just following

sheep-like, doing what they're told, is not how good nims get made. As a child, I played cowboys and Indians, which is a model version of life: if you get shot, you have to fall over. I don't like games such as Monopoly or Ludo; I think they're for people who are frightened by a lack of ground rules. It's the unpredictability of life that

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If you missed Patrick Uden's production of Jonathan Miller's Opera Works' on BBC2 recently, you can either wait for a repeat or try to catch his 'Jazz Heroes', soon to be shown on

makes it fun. Of course, other people might

find that rather depressing, but all I have to

Channel 4, or 'The Channel 5 Car Show'. Bank managers may be found through the British Bankers Association.

do is convince the bank manager.

#### CHESS: WILLIAM HARTSTON

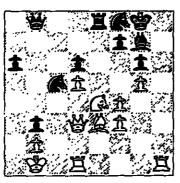
With three rounds left to play in the World Team Championship in Lucerne, England are in third place on 14 points, behind the United States, 15, and Russia, 141/2. The other scores are Armenia 13, Croatia 12. Ukraine 11½, Kazakhstan and Switzerland 11, Cuba 91/2, Georgia 8½

The gap at the top closed in the sixth round as the US were held to a 2-2 draw by Armenia while Russia beat Ukraine 3-1 and England beat Kazakhstan 21/2-11/2. The English victory came thanks to a win by Jon Speelman and draws from Short, Sadler and Hodgson. Perhaps the most significant

result of the round was Russia's win against Ukraine. After a 31/2-1/2 win over Cuba in the first round, the Russians had drawn their next four matches. They seem now to have woken up again. In the last three rounds, the US

will meet Switzerland, Russia and Kazakhstan; Russia have still to play Croatia, US and Georgia; England's opponents will be Cuba, Ukraine and Armenia; and Armenia have to meet Georgia and Cuba as well as England. The lastround match between Armenia and England may well be crucial in deciding the title.

After their hesitancy in the early rounds. Russia was back to its old win-with-White, draw-with-Black routine in its match with the Ukraine. Alexander Khalifman had a particularly nice attacking win on second board. When Romanishin gave up the exchange with 19 ... b5 13 h4 Nbd7 he was hoping for a Q-side attack 14 g5 hxg5

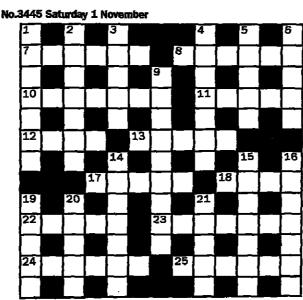


with his mobile pawns. Once he had lost control of the d4-square, however, it was all over. White's 26.Bd4!! in the diagram position was a neat finish. As the game went. Black resigned because 28...Nh7 29.Rxh7 Kxh7 30.Rh1+ leads to mate. He must either have overlooked 26.Bd4 completely, or missed the fact that 26 ... Rxe4 can be met by 27.Bxg7! Nxd3 (Kxg7 loses to Qc3+) 28.Bf6 with a similar finish to that of the game.

#### White: Alexander Khalifman Black: Oleg Romanishin

Queen's Indian Defence 1 d4 Nf6 15 hxg5 Nh7 16 f4 Re8 2 c4 c6 17 Bb5 Nhf8 3 Nf3 b6 18 0-0-0 a6 4 Nc3 Bb7 5 a3 g6 19 Bc6 b5 6 Qc2 Bxf3 20 Bxa8 Qxa8 7 exf3 Bg7 21 Ne4 b4 22 axb4 Qb8 8 Bಲ್ಲರ್ ದ 9 d5 h6 23 f3 cxb4 10 Be3 exd5 24 Kbl b3 11 exd5 0-0 25 Qd3 Nc5 26 Bd4 Nxd3 12 g4 d6 27 Nf6+ Bxf6 28 Bxf6 resigns

#### CONCISE CROSSWORD



#### ACROSS

Pointed missiles (6) 10 Intoxicating drink (7) 11 Emblem (5) 12 Monster (4) 13 Direct the course of (5) 17 Planet (5) 18 Pile (4) 22 Visit frequently (5) 23 Complete collapse (7) 24 Pass (6) 25 Turns out of home (6)

DOWN Munched (6) Eight-sided figure (7) Metallic element (7) River of the underworld Snatched (7) Temperamental (5)

#### Cricket trophy (5) Truism (9)

14 Christen (7)

feathers (7) 16 Moilify (7) 19 Principal (5) 20 Of the moon (5) 21 In a higher position than

15 Bird with showy tail

#### Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Farmer, 4 Copier (Pharmacopoeia), 7 Spectator, 9 Rite, 10 Rage, 11 Mores, 13 Concur. 14 Theory, 15 Septic, 17 Wretch, 19 Creek, 20 Pupa, 22 Bulb, 23 Endeavour, 24 Botany, 25 Legate. DOWN: 1 Fabric, 2 Mope, 3 Rector, 4 Chalet, 5 Poor, 6 Remedy, 7 Standpipe, 8 Raconteur, 11 Music, 12 Shark, 15 Superb, 16 Creepy, 17 Weevil, 18 Hobble, 21 Anna, 22 Bung.

#### BRIDGE: ALAN HIRON

North-South game; dealer East

North **♠**AQ654 Ø82 OKJ8 **♣**K54 **◆**K987 **♠**32 **♥A753** ♥KQ1096 ♦752 ♦Q1063 **₽**Q972 ₽none South **♣J** 10 **♥**34 **♦**A94 AJ 10863

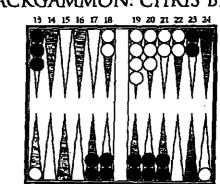
The days of cautious bidding seem long gone: nowadays any mouldy 11-count seems to warrant an opening bid. At least South held a six-card suit on this deal from the Generali European Championships! Once he had opened, of course, everybody got in on the act.

South East North 14 14 3♡ **pa**55 4♡ double pass all pass

North's double of 4♥ mercly suggested some extra high cards. If South had passed he would have collected a peaceful 300 points, but the lure of a vulnerable game was too much. As you can see, 54, although a poor contract, scemed set to roll home with the trumps behaving and the spade finesse right.

Have you any thoughts as to how the defenders might have given South a problem? A completely passive defence give him an easy run. Try playing three rounds of hearts, giving declarer a ruff and discard. A useless ruff and discard, yes, but he would not know that, and if he ruffs on the table and discards from hand, he suddenly has a trump loser. To succeed, of course, he must ruff in hand; then he can pick up the trumps without loss and rely on the spade finesse.

### BACKGAMMON: CHRIS BRAY



White, the box, had just rolled 61, and moved a man from his mid-point to his six-point. The team captain, normally the meekest of men, playing Black, took a brief look at the position and promptly doubled. His three team-mates, somewhat intimidated, doubled with him. Black accompanied his double with the comment: "Not much to think about here - come on let's get on with the next game." White, though, did find something to think about, and after a minute's study, accepted the cubes. Five rolls later he of-fered a redouble which all four players had to drop. But whose assessment of the original position was correct?

Black's position certainly has plus points. He has 14 good rolls, all ones plus 65 (which hit) and 66. Three rolls make a full prime: 22, 44 and 55, though two of these leave White a shot at a blot on the mid-point. The remaining 19 rolls do little to enhance Black's position. His five-prime, while effective, will be difficult to extend to a full prime. The worst feature of Black's position is that he has two men trapped hehind a five-prime, and should he release one of those men, White will be waiting to pounce on the straggler.

White, while he is not at the edge of Black's prime, has only one man behind it, and his spare men are well positioned to attack Black when he gets the opportunity. Having one man back as opposed to your opponent's two is

normally a strong advantage and this position is no exception. The fact that Black has a shot makes him a marginal favourite, but he is not strong enough to double the original inal position. He should hit first and double later. If he doesn't hit he will be glad he did not double. The team captain should have taken longer to evaluate the initial position and his team-mates should not have allowed themselves to be misled. In a chouette, always think for yourself,

حكدًا من الأجل

## 15/SPARE TIME

## Rock without the roll

Indoor climbing may teach you the ropes, but how easy is it to translate that skill to the great outdoors? Eric Kendali finds a safe foothold on a course in Wales

Expansive, committed, exposed - stuck. Just a few of the thoughts that can go through your mind half-way up a crag: the valley floor a distant backdrop to the vital drama playing itself out in slow motion, with you the star. OK, maybe not quite, but delusions of grandeur come easily when you're heading for the top of the world.

"Stuck" is by far the most powerful of those sensations, and the most important for newcomers to the sport. Upward progress is the name of the game and going backwards is not just undesirable, it's often virtually impossible, making each positive move a chess-like calculation. Thinking one or two steps ahead may keep you out of trouble on easier climbs, but the grandmasters are probably mentally halfway up the next cliff before they've finished the first,

You can be stuck for only so long. Then you work out the problem, or you fall off. All the while the obvious solution will probably have been staring you in the kneecaps in the form of a foothold that escaped your searching gaze. To your climbing partner belaying you at the foot of the cliff, this hold and a multitude of others are invariably and irritatingly apparent, despite their remote view of the proceedings.

Just how calm you remain, while surveying the vertical and apparently featureless rock around you, is a critical factor. A cool appraisal of your situation is what's needed, but your nerves may tell you otherwise, while your muscles – every single one of them - just scream. Moderate physical as well as mental fitness is essential to climb

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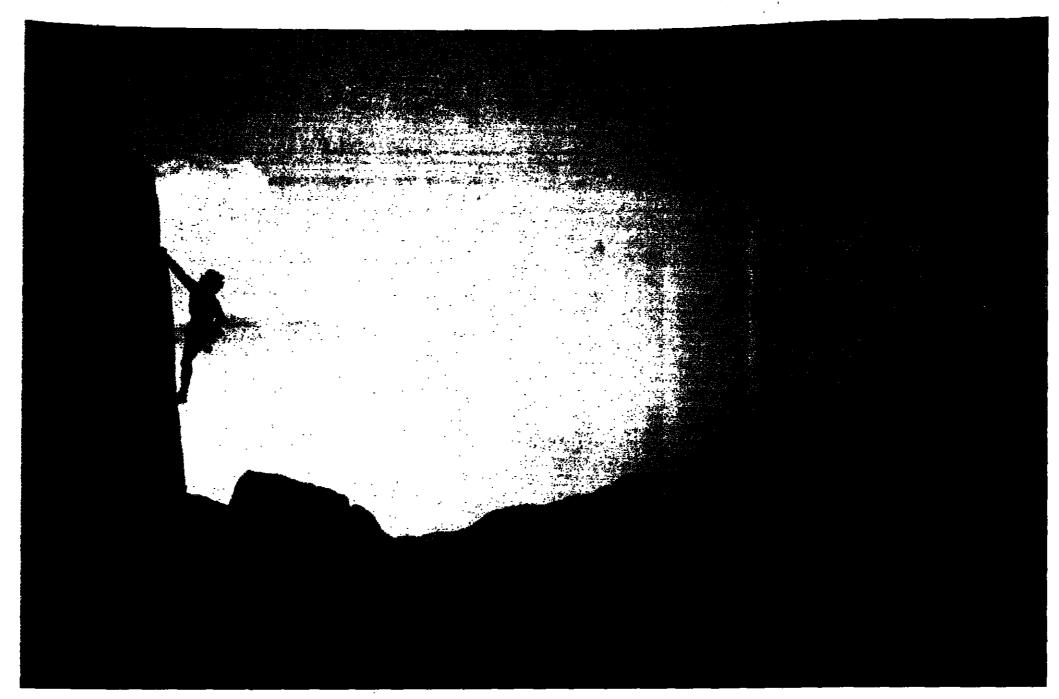
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Marie Lieu



The only way is up: the view may be stupendous, but where do you go from here?

at any level of expertise; 20-stone bloaters need not apply.

As a potentially hazardous sport, learning to climb has special requirements, with two distinct aspects: the physical ascent, and safety. You can easily concentrate on one and let someone else take care of the other. Go to an indoor wall and climb at every level with no more safety training than learning to wear a harness, tie on to a rope and belay your partner, using ropes run through permanent bolts at the top of the wall. With a bit of care it's about as dangerous as tiddlywinks, and saves the bother of going to the hills, maybe getting wet and cold, and having to fiddle about learning transfer their skills safely from an indoor to set up a safe rope system.

This satisfies the needs of some - it's an athletic endeavour that tests skill. strength and stamina, which can provide ever harder challenges; a bit like going to

play squash or football on a Saturday, but with racquets replaced by ropes, and studs with sticky-soled shoes. But for others it's a second best, for want of outdoor opportunities - the Peaks, Scotland and Wales are a fair distance from much of the population, the Alps even further. This leaves a group of climbers able to shimmy up colour-coded artificial rock routes, but without a clue how to fix a rope and only a limited feel for what constitutes a viable natural hand-hold.

Touching Stone is the answer to their problems, a two-day course specifically devised to allow climbers of all abilities to wall to an outdoor crag. It is held at Plas y Brenin, the National Mountain Centre in north Wales, where instructors use surrounding climbs to teach ropework and the use of climbing hardware to set up bomb-

proof belays. You also get a taste of the ultimate goal of many climbers: learning how to "lead", placing protection and clipping in a rope along a route as it's climbed, rather than relying on a rope secured from above. It's a step on the way to bigger climbs and the kind of fluency that sets the expert

Speed, grace, agility and confidence come not just with endless training on walls, but out on the crags which provide the thrill of being high and so exposed.

But whatever level you reach, personal responsibility is the key message. Considering the stakes involved, it's an alarming thought that the rope you set up is your sole protection if you fall - but ultimately, who better to trust than yourself?

What you need True to its roots, climbing remains relatively simple and uncluttered. First-timers can wear whatever clothes they feel comfortable in, though skirts and kilts would be considered bad form.

With sufficient training and abstention, tight-fitting, stretchy, Lycra-type clothing to the BMC, 177-179 Burton Road, Manlooks the business. Climbing outdoors also requires clothing for full protection from mountain weather, according to

Trainers or other grippy-soled, flexible shoes are fine to start with; ideally, smoothsoled rock boots are worn several sizes too small to ensure maximum control and to enhance their astonishing grip on your feet as well as the rock.

Harness, helmet, ropes and hardware are all initially available for use through clubs, at indoor walls or on courses. You should know how it all works before buyWhere to go

About 200 artificial climbing walls are listed in the British Mountaineering Council's (BMC) Climbing Wall Directory which costs £2.50 but is free to members. Write chester M20 2BB, enclosing an sae for membership information.

Local walls are usually listed in Yellow Pages, sometimes under "Sports Centres". London has several walls, and two dedicated climbing centres. The Castle (0181-211 7000) and Mile End Wall (0181-980 0289). Walls are also a good source of information on clubs and outdoor climbing opportunities and often run courses at various levels.

Touching Stone, climbing outside for the inside climber, is available at Plas y Brenin. National Mountain Centre (01690 720214), Web site URL: www.pyb.co.uk

### Growing up in a dolls' house

Tiny dog leads, miniature door knobs ... there's a mini world in the making at Pulborough. Sally Staples ioins the Dolls' House Workshop.

The four-day course sounded just a little intimidating. Decorating and electrifying, carving tiny pieces of furniture and creating miniature room sets suggested that this was a course for serious-minded experts - not the sort who would gladly share their tube of glue with a beginner.

But it proved to be quite the opposite. The women who had signed up for the workshop were a friendly, humorous bunch ranging from the novice toying with a flat-pack kit, to an obsessive dolls' house maker who built an extension to her



Miniature maintenance: a tiny spot of decoration

home to accommodate the 11 houses she has created from scratch in the past five years. Mary Barclay, from Shef-

field, is a retired social worker with a talent for "crafty things" and a passion for dolls' houses. Her home-made collection includes a Sixties doctors' surgery, a Nineties modern house with a Porsche in the garage, a Victorian toy room, a teacher's room she made out of a bread box, a chemist's shop "Join the Literary

She embroiders the tiny carpets for the staircases and spends spare cash on buying miniature furniture. But she still comes on courses to seek advice from tutor Lorna Payne.

and a bridal shop.

"The most important thing I ever learnt was to measure, check, measure, check and check again before you cut anything," she said. "And you need a fresh eye to give you new ideas. I bought this little brass oven for £40 and it just didn't look right. Lorna suggested I should stipple it with black paint leaving just the brass rail and brass on the door handles. When I'd done that, it looked exactly right for my Victorian kitchen. She also instigated the idea for stripping a dining suite and giving it a different finish."

**GD** 

Photograph: John Lawrence

Mary has visited America to learn more about her hobby and likes nothing more than to browse round the surprisingly large number of miniaturist fairs and specialist shops. Her husband has insured her handiwork for £20,000. At the other end of the scale

is Sue Parkes, from Staffordshire, who has had little experience in the art of miniatures and is painstakingly working on a new project. She has saved her earnings from a part-time job for two years to book a place on the four-day workshop, at the residential adult education college located in an old rectory near

Pulborough in Sussex. "There's not much time to get stuck into a project at home, what with working, looking after the children, cooking and housekeeping," she said. "So this is a nice break. I've bought a flat-pack kit and I want to make it into a shop that sells gardening equipment and things for pets.

"I'm planning to make dog baskets with some cane. I can do little brooms and dog leads, and I've got some miniature

chicken wire for rabbit hutches. I'm really clumsy - not talented in this way at all. But all you need is time, patience and the desire to make something and, honestly, anyone can do it; it's very addictive, too."

Shops are as popular as conventional dolls' houses. Jean Stuchlik, from Worthing, is working on a baker's shop with

living accommodation upstairs. "I started making mouse houses out of papier-maché for my grandchildren." she said. "I've always liked working with my hands and I've drawn quite a lot. But you don't need any special talent to do this. I've bought a kit to make my staircases but I was really stuck with the lighting. Lorna has shown me how to electrify my shop with a copper wire circuit soldered to the back of the house."

Jean has set her shop in the Twenties, and bought a selection of rolls of wallpaper with tiny scale patterns, and some swatches of thin corduroy material to make the carpets. The chimneybreasts are balsa wood and she spent hours cutting, painting and sticking pieces of old cereal boxes to make hundreds of tiny tiles for the roof. The windows are acrylic and the sitting-room floor is paper with a parquet design.

Pat Clay, from Shepperton, has no interest in dolls' houses but enjoys making what she calls "boxes". These vignettes or room sets can be decorated with stones, pebbles, pieces of wood and miniature furniture to conjure up Christmas scenes, beach pictures, woodland landscapes - anything that catches the imagination. Pat has created a Greck island scene as a memento for a friend.

"I enjoy coming here because it's therapeutic and it's fun to be with like-minded people. I'm not talented but I like to be creative within a small area. For me, being here is adult playing." ordinarily authentic impression Pat's Greek island is conof old Greek flooring tiles. structed out of a Croft Original Tutor Lorna, who founded sherry box. She created a the East Midlands Miniaturist church by photocopying and en-

hancing a postcard several times and then building up the picture with paper backing to give it a three-dimensional look. She has used sand and tiny pebbles to give a glistening effect to the beach, and rubbed some soil on

Association in 1991 and won a scholarship from the International Guild of Miniature Artisans to study her subject in America, acts as a soundingboard, giving help and advice to students where it is wanted.

"Some people are purists and

ideas and to help them achieve whatever they have in mind." A four-day residential dolls' house workshop at the Old Rectory, Fittleworth, near Pulborough

in Sussex (01798 865306), costs

from £188 including full board.

A similar course is run by Pat

Cutforth at Shaw Farm, Lock-

eridge, Marlborough in Wilt-

said. "I'm there to give them

plastic strips to give an extraothers just want to have fun," she shire (01672-861228).

### THE INDEPENDENT **Miniature Standard Hibiscus**

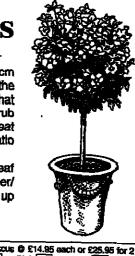
for only £14.95 — inc. p&p

These very showy shrubs are grafted on to stems 60cm tall, the shrub itself forming a bushy head on top of the stem. Hibiscus need a good sunny spot to do well but that is about all they ask so they fit quite happily into shrub borders where their 60cm stem can be used to great advantage. They also look very good grown in patio planters.

Hibiscus are amongst the latest of shrubs to come into leaf (generally around late May) and flower during September/ October, giving a glorious display of exotic bloom right up to the first frosts of winter.

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THE INDEDENDENT

ARTY SLOB

OWNER OF A.
LONELY HEART
Genuine, sim, solvent male, 53, 577, GSOH, N/S, snloys travel, politics, socialisting and like in general, seeks intelligent, caring lemate, 35-55, GSOH, N/S, for thendelstyn, maybe more. Michands area. 23331
CUESTION...

Are well a very fectiones.

more Michands and TSSS1

QUESTION...

Are you a very feminine, strong-minded female, yet in need of a strong, caring male, 59, with a powerful and saring induseres? If so, them call.

Michands. 25343

POETIC INNIGHT...
In termished amour, 25, cocks meen locare, pession for withy conversation 3 bizza, seeks pretty, intelligent, damaels in distress, for Irlendehlp, fun, conversation and good tenes.

23126

EAST SUSSEX, WEST KENT Librate, older, left-wing, antist designer, very busy indoors, and out in the woods planting, felling, logging, preters woman's company, especially those with dark halleyes, preterably NS, for a relevant, intendry retailonship. 273130

LET'S GET TOGETHER Professionally educated male, 60s, NS, ff, likes music, walk-ing, gardering, world travel, seeks female, NM, 50+, for sharing and caring relationship.

seeks female, N/S, 50+, for staring and caring relationship. Headordshire based. 22:3149

BN OR CUT OF LONDON
Tell, silm, well-travelled, romante male, recently returned from stread, looking for fun-loding but kind female companion, 29:38, to enjoy good times together. 27:3184

SEEKING

MEX

CALLING YOUR HEART

fun, hiendahip, possesy more. 12:3322

SPECIAL OFFERI
40 but still in date! Educated, edecide, unique catch, not ughy male. Ikes politics, currant affairs, food, u name it, massive arts interests, seeks new male, intend, hopefully more. 12:328

HERTS MAN.

HEATTS MAN
Silm, non-scene, straight-lookinglacting male, 22, 617, shortbrown hair, grey eyes, enjoys
oburch/charal/chart music, chrema, pubs, eating out, cosy
nights in, seeks similar male,
20-28, for friendship/relationetho, 77:3776

ship. 273376

Marie Jan

11 To 12 To

THE SELL MANY ...

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THE PARTY.

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WOMEX

PICTURE THIS
Sim fermin, 46, labe havel, skiing, these pool codyvine,
seeking professional male, 3648, N/S, GSOH, nationality
unimportant, for briesdeshipple-SEEKING MEN

LOVE TO SHARE Altractive, Intelligent, slogie ternsie, 33, seeks professional male, 28-35, for trianglaido. SUPERWOMAN
SEEKS SUPERMAN
GOOD-looking? Cultured? Love
hill-walking & trave? Gorgeous
male, with a certain sernativity
and sophistication, 40s, sought
by super, similar hamala, hves
SusseeMarrey. 27:330
DYNAMIC LADY
Warm-hearted, gifad, bright &
pretty, alm, professional
lemais, 45, 57, brown curly
hate, many interests, love; tile,
much to give right man. He's

male, 28-35, for trienciatio, possible relationship, 12:3368
DESPERATE & DATELESS
(ORLY JOIGNG)
Attractive, outpoing, blonds, sporty graduate, early 30s, with GSOH, seeks fur male.
London area. 27:3378
DESIGN FOR LIFE
Female, 30s, likes theetre, serobics, interior decorating, actores pzzz, seeks professional male, with great personally & GSOH, for possible romance.
Surrey/London. 27:3342 much to give fight man. He's 5'6"+, professional, kind, humorous, active, looking for thandship/relationship. East Susser. 773361 Surray/London, 223342 HEALTHY LOVE LIFE Gorgeous, Scandinavism single mum, 34, wents intellectually, emotionally and financially stable hunt, 30-45, must have VGSOH and a high IQ to get past first base. Cheshire. 75:381

BRIGHTON BELLE SALOR AHOYI
Friendly, professioned, tell, sim,
Asian female, 25, enjoys salling, table-sensis, therefore, seeks
practical male. GSOH, with
strater interests, 25-35, for
francishing prossible relations.

LADY SEEKS

ROMAN CATHOLIC...

... or stayed Roman Catholic
gentleman, for possible
tomsnoe. My intensets music,
poetry, draing out, walks,
nature, beatre, chemis, home
lite. Are you a geruine, kind,
lovery sout, 25-487 South West
area. \$7-380

MAKE ME LAUGHI
Professional, big, preby temale, strillar Interests, 25-35, for friendship, possible relation-ship, London/SE ases, 273132
TIRED OF COOKING FOR ONE?
Me too Adventurous, attractive temale, 28-38, for friend-ship/selforatio, Rose chema, pute, intelligent conversation, travel, independent On Sunday, hope you do too. Withdistina, 273161
FEY BRUNKETTE
Attractive, very toxing, intelli-MARE ME LAUGH!
Professions, big, pretty temale,
37, passion for ambaughter,
voud Ree to strare tile with NS,
sencere, tell male, to include
nomance. What have you got to
lose but loneliness? Surrey.

LADY SEEKS

FEY BRINKETTE
Attractive, very loving, intelligent lemain, 29, a little eccentric, adores animats, music, 
ocuntryside, esolaric arts, having iun, seeks protective, 
humorous, intelligent, well-bred 
male, 35-42, to watch the 
stars. Glastonbury area. 
\$73178
TOTAL WOMAN
SEEKS TOTAL MAIN SEEKS TOTAL MAN
Are you tail, handsome,
mature, professional, active,
single male, 35-457 I am a singie, black, classy, educated
and open-maided temate, 57°,
32. Race not an issue. #23156
FAR-HARRED
Step Active Refer. (2016) Curry, equalizer lemals, 41, dark hair, 57°, enjoys things mysterous & multi-dimension-al, cmemas, travel, laughter, philosophy, saeks kind, hones, committed, open-minded, tall,

FAIR-HAIRED
Sim, Anglo-Italian female, 32, fiving in the Putney area, would enjoy the company, of a well-trammered male, of a similar age, for a long-term happy relationship. 273182
ADVENTURIOUS
COMPANION WAS TEST tionship. 173403 FREE SPIRIT IN CORNWALL

FREE SPRIT IN CORNWALL Bright, spintual, country-forung terralle, 28. shorps spontanety, The Levelars, ramdalf, good food and red whe, seeks grounded male, to share her currey with. 25:388.

SOUTH HANTS FEMALE Warm, attractive, skin brunette, 56°, NS, enjoys good convesation, theatre, outdoor pursuits, selling, golf etc., seeks special male, 50-50, for companionship, possible relationship. ADVENTUROUS
COMPANION WANTED
Are you an adventurous, affectionate? Well-educated male, 35-45? Are you interested in the great outdoors? On you want to travel to more exotic places? Fernate, 50s, seeks you. You transfering frances. ONE IN MILLION

TWO'S COMPANY
Are you if "\*, fair, medium build, fun-foving, independent, solvent, NS, 35-0? Then this fair temals, 33, 51", would like to hear from you! \$23177

\* SEEKING A FRIEND
Chinese femals, 38, studying in UK, enjoys music, reading, lims and travel, seeks professional, honest, aducated, tell, stim, white male, \$4-0, with good teste, NS, for friendship, London area. \$23159 Vivacious, attractive brunetie, 29. seeks tell, athletic, professional guy, 30s, for thendatry/relationship. Hampetine/Home Counties. 17:3401

SPORTY & ADVENTUROUS

Sign attraction, and hopeful. Silm, attractive, red-headed female, 32, 6, looking for Mr Right. Are you tall, 30-some-thing, professional, independent, well-travelled but still single? Phone now. South Coast/Hampshire area. 12:3375 London area. 12:3159
GORGEOUS CELLIST seeks warm, communicative, professional male, to share cul-

Articulate, slim, affection discred. Aincen/Carlob lady, 40s. West Yorks ba tural pursuits, country walks, interesting conversation. NW interesting Conversation. NW
arts. 173168
LADY SEEKS
ROMAN CATHOLIC...
...or strayed R/C gentlemen,
for possible romance. My interues life, wents to be che eeks N/S, professional, black nale, GSOH, for friendship ests: music, poetry, dirting out, wells, nature, theatre, chemis, home lite. Are you a genulne, kind, loving sout, 28-48? South West area. 27:3180

Professional, Christian female, 30s, enjoys theatre, music, swimming, seeks Christian male, 30-45, GSOH, NS, tor fun and triendship. London area. 273/57
GREAT MINUS THINK ALIXE
OUTDING. Independent parts.

Outgoing, Independent, opti-mistic ferrale, 38, enjoys live music, travel, with similar seeks male, 40-45, with similar interests, for friendship/reia-tonship. NW Manchester. 773191

adventure. London area.

32944

SEEKING SOUL MATE
Attractive, Idah female, 27, 5°8°, onloys leughter, fun, music and a bit of a challenge, seeks make, with character, to strare life's ups and downs. 722355

FIERY BRUNETTE
Attractive, intelligent female, 29, a little ecoentric, very loving, adores animels, music, countryside, esoteric arts, naving fun, seeks protective, humorous, intelligent, well-bred male, 35°-40, to waith the stars. Glastonbyry area. 122319

SRIGILE LADY

Young last, 29, enjoys music, candielt dinners and wire, seeks remarke, attractive male, for friendship. Lancs

male, for friendship, Lance area, 172913

CHESHERE LADY
Articulate, attractive, enjoys wellding, telding, theatre, music, diring, seeles single, same, solvers, sociative male, 35+, Could we be consealible? 172951

BE MY LIBRARY
Female, 31, Bloss music, books, chrema, seeles Oxford-educated, sociable, shoese, foncest male, 30-36, should possess (SOH, for irlandship and relationship. Durbamit and on area. 172978

CAN YOU VALUE ME?
I am a confident and shoese,

CAN TOU VALUE ME?

I am a conflident and sincere, sophisticated, yet down-to-sent, attractive, 40-something female, folding for a valued male. NW London/Cambridge. 172940

FANCY A CHALLENGE?
Curroino, intelligent, conutre.

FANCY A CHALLENGE?
Outgoing, intelligent, genuine, fun-loving termale, 34, 515, enjoys ercheology, museuma, clubs, pats, enjoys ercheology, museuma, clubs, pats, enjoys file to the full, seeks tall, ethracitive, intelligent male, GSOH, with similar interests, for interests, possible relationship. 272834

PARTNER FOR LIFE

Sitm, attractive, divorced, African lady, 35, GSOH, with one son, varied therests, seeks geruine, kind, honset, romanic, tamby loving, professionalfussinessman, 40+, for long-term commitment. No time-westers please. London area.

term commitment. No time-wasters please. London area. 12/2588

GORGEOUS CELLIST Intelligent, slim terraile, 35, seeks warm, communicative, professional male, to share cul-tural pursuits, country walks, interesting conversation. NW area. 12/2016

GOOSEBERRY!

### 13121
Sim, intelligent female, 25, blonde, green syes, loves all sport, theatre and socialising, seeks attractive, protessional male, 24-35, with a series of selections, between the procession of the series of selections.

seeks romantic, attractive male, for friendship. Lance

GOOSERERINY
Independent inteligent, attractive, with, thoughtial, sporty, unblicity termals, 33, 515°, seeks athetic, intelligent, professional, interesting & humorous, homourable male, 30-40ish, 5\*11°+, masculine not nean-derthal, for friendship first.
West Sussex based. 22:2574
SEEKING
SOMEONE SPECIAL

countyside, walding, restau-rants, chama, fun, seeks talker, professional gent, under 45. ELencs/N. Yorks area. 22255 SEEKING WCNIDERFUL MAN Petite, affectionets & caring, professional fernale, young 36, seeks handsome, truelligent male. 35-45, for commander

THE PHONE CALL THAT COULD CHANGE YOUR LIFE hey say it happens when you ionst expect it. Or should I say where you least expect it. Who'd have thought placing a personal ad would lead to something like this. I was looking to meet a few nice people. But then there was Chris. Wow! Funny, cute, and so sweet. Now we're not talking marriage here. Well, not just yet..." To place your own FREE personal ad, call

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Slightly bottemian, attractive, professional lady, 50, seeks youthful gent, WS, who enjoys home sie, travel, the arts, good conversation and has adventure in his sout. Herts. \$73354

Thoughtful, sometimes challenging temale, always optimistic and interesting to be with, enjoya cycling, balang & my work, seeles male, 45-80, with positive, energetic outlook, from N.Shropshire/N.Wales/ O SOLO NO-NO C SOLD NO-NO

Connected, creative, scrive, spiritual, sorted, fun-loving, proleastonal woman, 51, N/S, seeks iski-back male companion, to share, laughs, hots, walks, tile and Jeny Lee Lewis, sw. sm. 3332

SW . 1873392 THE ICKNG IN THE CAKE Affectionate, understanding female, 53. GSOH, loing on the cake someone to share things with, enjoys life, wallding, saling, travelling, looking for happy, easilygoing, tall male, 45-55, for fasting relationship. South 223383 Famela, 50, living in London, seeks reasonably new men, who enjoys pubs, cinema, talking, walking a reading, who doesn't object to smoking.

STYLISH & SPARKLING lady, 43, looks younger, no ties, enjoys travel and adventure, seeks professional male, 35-49, N/S, with similar interests, for triendship/relationship. Aberdeen area. 273167

FRIENDRE GRADULALE

FROUTHS, Stylist, Str., attractive, very effectionate and sincare female, young 40s, foves
music and the arts, seeks male,
49-50, soscutive/professional,

SURRIEY LADY
Attractive, aim, it fernale, 45, seeks nock climbing companion, for occasional outrings, England/Welss, good looks, intelligence appreciated loo. 123124
SIMPLY THE BEST Creative, humane, black tady, enjoys travel, laughter, current affairs, cycling, cheme, cooking, seeks fun-loving, bright, creative, black/mbted race male, 38-48, with individuality and warmth. London area.

SOMEONE SPECIAL SOMEONE SPECIAL Independent, educated lady, enjoys travel, keep R, chema, countryelde, seeks kind, genuine, professional male, 50-50, for friendenth, possibly more. Sumay area. E73182.

Vegetariani female, 40-comating, interests include mediation, classical music, heatingueses, seeks vegetariani issues, seeks vegetarian inclined male, of similar age.

GRADUATE WOMAN... SUSSEX COAST LADY

inandariip, possole readon-ship, 25745
SEEKNIG A FRIEND
Divoced, stim, stiractive uni-versity isector & linguist, 43, 557, from West Yorkshire, kwes culture, conversation, laughter, films, walking, most sports, peace, beauty and fun, seeks male, 35.50, N/S, with similar international processors (\$2000)

Charities

THEY NEED YOUR HELP..

Professional, stylish, black temale, 510°, with GSOH, seeks spontaneous male, 33-39, NS, for fun and require. London. 172345

WOMEN CRASBY CANCER CRABBY CANCER
Essycolog, sensitive, caring
mais, 41, 510°, N/S, enjoys
socialising, sports, diring out,
cinema, places of interest,
country watter, seeks intendity
terrate, 30+, to share life and
interests, Hertfordshire area.
273328

SEEKING

Warm, handsome, mature, friendly, financielly secure, professional male, enjoys select dancing, the arts, travel, cheme, sport, leaging fit, seeks attractive female, 33-38, for pressures and relationship. Pomanito, creative, slim, umpretentious, good-looking, male graduate, 43, 511°, enjoys the countryside, seeks individual, sensitive, stim, shapely female, for lowing 8 supportive relationship. North

RITELECTUALLY
Fleasonable-looking male, mid40a, 59°, brown colouring,
beard, GSOH, seeks interesting, thinking women, GSOH,
any age, for friendship and
affection. London. \$73391
SPECIME
SOMEONE SPECIAL
Christian male, 48, fisce reading wildon, charms, theaths. ing, welding, cinema, theatre, seeks Christian lemale, 35-45, for triendship and relationship. East Anglia. 253351

East Angle. 27351
MEET YOUR CRITERIA?
Professional, reliable, articulate, healthy, sciventurous, homest male, young-tooking 48, N/S, with higher degrees, seeks similar, attractive, warm temate, 35-42, for relationship.
Scotland based. 273371 WORDLY & WISE
Humorous, tall male, young-looking 49, 6'2", enjoys travel, eating out, resding, films, music, seeks pleasant lady, up HELLUVA GUY

Professional, well-educated, articulate male, youthful 50, GSOH, social conscience, enjoys finer things of life, seek, enjoys finer things of life, seek, and the seek of the the good life. London/Essax based. 22:3385 ALTERNATIVE L'AMOUR? Kind, essygoing, attractive, professional, fit, indian male, 38, 6', enjoys laughing, yoga, attamative therapy, theatre, travel, seeks sim/madium-bulk.

Male postgraduate, 46, N/S. asplring polymath, seeks intelligent, creative, tactile, younger, unestached female, for possible serious relationship. Hampshire/ Surrey borders. 273402

BALANCED INTELLECTUALLY

RESILENT ROMANTC
Intelligent, good-looking, with
male, 25, 6', into theatre, dining
out, walking, chemia, conversation, seeks similar ternale, 2545, no ties, for fun, intendship/
relationship, will travel.
Coverty, 273335
ARE YOU FOR ME?

THE GREEN GLEN
Male actor, 34, seeks sincere
female, any age/nationality, for
long-term relationatip. London

Energetic, professional male, 29, 61°, into gym, music, club-bing and the best that life has to offer, seeks fun-loving female. 20-32, for hectic nights and chill-out days. Hampshire.

MEDLANDS MARE IN A MARIE IN THE PROPERTY OF STATE OF STAT All my trends are couples, do any single women tency a beer, with an easygoing male, 30, excivil several and becharacter. St Albana area? 12338

POSH SPICE
Self-medic coherch male, sanh POSH SPICE
Self-made, solvent male, garly
90s, 6, fises fast care, Chelsea
PC, seeks Posh Spice lookalile, for fast dimes and melybe
more. THIS GOOD MAN.

List't hard to flad Honest,
humorous, intelligent, articulate, romertic, reflective, orastress gentle maveatick, 35, 6,
dart/blue, big heart, seeks
tersele, with love of art, beauty,
culture, ideas, laughter, intimacy, Yorkshire. E3344
OCEANS TO EXPLORE
Graduate, 33, seeks bright,
helbity formale, 25,32, 10 share Male, 51, seeks ambley, younger temale, for opera, galleries, travel, gournander and that other thing. SE London.

intelligent, educated, Cultured, capreteritious, Jewish male, capreteritious, Jewish male, Bees criciset, France, bridge, seeks talk, blonde Jawish temisle, for fature, London based 17386 CIRTURED WRITER Black capr. 30. seeks carriers. iemzie, for fiziere. London based. 173386
CULTURIED WRITER
Black 947, 30, seeler exiting ledy, 25-40lish, for frendship, possibly more. South East England, 25-40lish, for frendship, possibly more. South East England, 25-35.

A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD Stry, withy male, 25, 6, mediam, build. brown-haired, N/S, enjoys pubs, clubs, loothell, films, seeks outgoing, werm temale, 20-25, for friandship first, maybe more. 173323

STOP LOOKE
Young, good-looking, fun-loving, white male, 23, enjoys icesp fit, socialising, pubs, chema, seeks attractive, fun-terming, special critical pubs, chema, seeks attractive, fun-terming, special critical productionship. Bristol based. 173321

MOTORWAYS OF LOVE
Cutgoing, essygoing, friendly, single dad, 25, smokas, enjoys raily car driving, social drinking, seeks similar, carring, understanding fermale, 25-35, must like children, for friendship/maybe corre. Newcestis-upon-Tyre sees. 173333

THE BEST
Sincere, loyal, romantic, intahi-gent, good-looking. Cardiff male, 25, 5\*11°, enjoys music, maybe corre. Newcestis-upon-Tyre sees. 173333

LONDON BASED
Sam male, 29, dark leaft, files children, fared post leading travel, reading, seding out, footbell, delikes Michael Portilo, seeks cheens lavel, handsone male, 28, seeks Vera, for possible and critical conductation. OCEANS TO EXPLORE
Graduate, 33, seeks bright, bubbly female, 25-22, to share diving, seeling and whatever the huter may hold. Oxfordshire based, 25-388.

LOVE & LAUGHTER
Well-bulk male, 35, 6, flees cheros, sports, corredy, seeks mature female, for ingress in and cat. London/SE eres. 27-348.

LET OUR WORLD UNFOLD Presentable, caring, generous male, into affection, mutual respect and laughter, seeks female, 25-40, bo share good times into the future. SE/Bristol ages. 27-3373.

HELPIP.

MY PARTNER?
Black, very athletic male, 31, 6',
VGSOH, artipus music, aports,
draing out, wirking, seeks pleasant, wonderful famale, 21+, for
good times. Genuine replies
please. Bedford area. 193363
POSSIBLY

digent, educated, cultured,

ROVER'S RENOEZVOUS?
Tail, dark, handsome mals, 28, seeks Veral, for possible romance. Chips and gravy essential part of first data. London, \$73349

BRIGHT RIEAS
Bright, energetic male, 26, 5°8", medium baid, enjoys music, liverature, seeks femela, 20-27, with similar interests, for friend-ship/relationship. London. \$73394

LAUGHTER & ADVENTURE Intelligent, enflusisedd, good-

LAUGHTER & ADVENTURE Intelligent, endrustagit, good-looking male, 27, loves tile, travel, sport, charma, archaeology, seeks inspirational, attractive, romantic fernale, 24-35. London area. 27:3347
HELLO, HOW ARE YOU? Male, 27, loves music, food, charma, drinking, seeks similar fermale, NS, for good times, in the London area. 27:3372
RESILIENT ROMANTIC Institute, pool-looking, withy

Tail, outgoing, attractive male, 29, Into interesting places, nights out, pubs and live music, seeks stim female, 18-30. East

Friendly, essygoing, Worcester male, 37, 510°, medium build, enjoys redio, jazzholk music, socialishing, seeks fernais, for caring relationship. West Midents area. 153334

A SPECIAL LOVE!
Handsome, successful, very affectionate, questly male, 57, 5°, dark heis, seeks solvent, attractive, silm, emotionate, without tee, for a loving relationship. Memochester area. 273379

STYLISH LADY SOUGHT Outgoing, adventurous and unusual female, with panache, understanding and firm personality, 25-55. Myself? Loving male, 38, looking for a caring, warm, affectionate companion. SCost. 273344

SEEKING SOIL MATE
Tal, silm male, young 39, varied interests, seeks shim, lively, caring female, 25-35. GSON, for friendship, possible relationship. London. 273584

WONDER AT IT ALL.
Travelling, thinking, dreaming, reading, rock & buse loving, senolding, drinking, leaghing, tall, if, letter male cycles, late 30s, seeks bright, attractive female, to share laughter and romance. Bristol, SW area. 273331 CALLING YOUR HEART
Gay, sim, good-looking, nonscens male, 26, 517, likes cinema, pubs, dring out, seeks fall,
handsome male, 26-40, also
non-ecene, for romantic relationship. Southsumpton area.

27:3374

TIME FOR A CHANGE
Young guy, late 20s, new to
scene, seeks similar male, for
fun, friendship, possibly more.

27:3359 

NICE SLOKE
Tail, sim, hardsome, witty, rich
male, not normally this modest,
would appreciate the company
of an independent women, of
wit, integrity and beauty, born in
the 1964s. Betson. Ex3897
A BETTER LIFE
Attractive male, 40, into sking,
hooses, county. If it, motorbities, travel and all the better
things in the, seeks attractive,
caring, positive female, 20-40.
Michands ares, 27-3394
LOTS OF NEW ENERGY
Professional, silm, educated,

LUTS OF NEW ENERGY Professional, silm, educated, Christian male, 40, own home, seaks female companion, to share the and Interests. Kent. 173366

ASHTON FRENDS Straight female, 33, seeks straight female triends, 30-40, to share occasional nights out.

SALISBURY ARTIST IT'S GOOD TO TALK Professional male, 40+, enjoys music, travel, cinema, theatre, seeks temale intends, 35+, for

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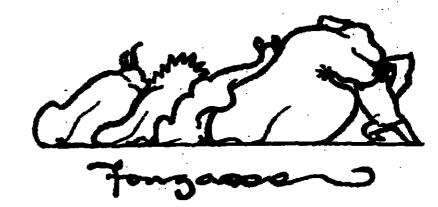
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> ROWBOTTOM ON AUTOGRAPH HUNTERS

## How hanging about team buses and car parks can purify the air The away team bus is where themselves on the line, half

ball matches. Out come the players, their hair still damp from the showers, and as they different things from sporting board the bus the eager requests start. Or you can find them by the

gates of the home players' car park, chatting to the commissionaire - Les heen through yet?..yeah?..What about - until a BMW or a Saah glides up to the exit with a familiar face behind the wheel. A knot of supplicants slows the saloon's progress; excitement stirs as the driver's window slides - automatically - down.

Autograph hunters. It's a curious name for them, as they are invariably the reverse of hostile. More like potential victims, in fact, putting digress.

you will find them after foot- hopeful, half fearful of being shunned or ignored.

> protagonists - a comment, a ine, a reaction. When deadlines loom, it is tempting to regard those desperately proferring pens and paper to the subject of your enquiries as an aksome intrusion.

Pur-lease! We are professionals! Can't you see we have a job to do? Kindly stand

Linford Christie, I swear, used to delight in choosing such moments to address every request with the utmost diligence, knowing he was making the Fourth Estate sweat on their edition times, But I

after autographs may be to we injury as he balanced my proseekers after truth, they are ignored at the peril of any sport - or, by extension, those who write about it. Like plants, they purify the air.

I have a programme for the 1973 Amateur Athletic Association Championships which were held at Crystal Palace. On it are several names which will always be associated with particular memories of that Saturday,

Andy Carter - caught him on the back straight after he had broken the British 800m record, Big smile. David Jenkins – found him clambering up the steps of the main stand. Brisk, bright, friendly, Alan Pascoe - got him as he was

Inconvenient as the seekers - nearly fell and did himself an - destroyed; I walked from that gramme on one knee. "Olyrapic star's career ended by the stroke of a pen... tragic accident robs British athletics

> I also carry another memory of that sunny afternoon. Strolling around the outside of the arena, I noticed Geoff Capes, Britain's fearsome shotputter, talking to someone who I now realise must have been from the Press. I waited at a distance for about five minutes until the giant policeman was alone, "Excuse me, Geoff," I said. "Can I have your autograph please?" I couldn't. You've got to pay for that now.

of top hurdler".

son," he said, walking away. In one moment my love for the sport of athletics was stadium broken and dis-

All right, it wasn't as bad as that. But it mattered to me at the time, and I felt the humiliation every autograph seeker sometimes finds.

I had made my first sortie into the world of fandom a few years earlier by writing to Martin Peters. To be more specific, I sent him a 16 stanza – well, let's be kind to an 11-year-old and call it verse.

The idea was that Peters was the sole survivor of a West Ham injury crisis, and was thus obliged to take on the champions of the era, Leeds, on his own. "The left foot passes to right foot, he's off and away he goes, the interpassing of his feet hamhoozles the others so ...

I think you can guess the

By return, I got the poster torn from Goal magazine which I had sent him to sign. It said: "Best wishes, Martin Peters." I was thrilled.

Looking at the envelope, I saw it had been posted at 12.30 in Romford. Perhaps he had put it into the pillar box himself? No, probably he'd got someone to do that for him. But the signature - blue ink, down in the left hand corner that was his. Martin Peters had looked at this poster. Martin Peters had touched this poster. Wait until I tell them at

In April of last year, a journalistic assignment took me to Learnington Spa - no, really and I had the opportunity of

meeting the man whose timeless classic of 1969, Goals From Nowhere, was my set text of the time. "Go on, my son," I'm shouting as the boys come running up, all shouting and jumping on me. The crowd's gone potty. Must have looked great.

As Peters - greyer now, but still with that trademark side parting - paused in the lobby of the hall where he had been speaking, I felt myself stepping out and away from my professionally present self like Patrick Swayze in Ghost. From man to

Words came out of my mouth in keeping with the tentative traditions of fandom. "Excuse me, Martin, Would

you mind signing this?" It said "Best wishes, Martin

## Japan's little big man still on the learning curve in London

The latest visitor to the Budokwai judo club is the diminutive but formidable Hirotaka Okada, who is in this country to seek ways of combating the bruisers who now dominate the sport where guile and grace once held sway.

Philip Nicksan took on Japan's double world champion on the fighting mat - briefly.

the part of a double world :hampion. Relatively short at five foot eight (1.70 metres), with a chubby face, a slightly plump girth and an easy smile. he did not seem anywhere near as bruising as many other visiiors who step through the door of The Budokwai in London, the oldest judo club in Europe.

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I remember a Russian from Vladivostock a couple of months ago - all grim sinews and Pedro Soares from Portugal, hungry for international nedals; and our homegrown Tray Stevens. Over six foot to a and each brandishing an abdominal six-pack.

In any case, this was Okada's first experience of Tuesday. the Budokwai's strong, highgrade night, where quarter is neither expected nor given. He would be edgy, I mused.

They always are. "Onegaishimas!" I delivered the formal invitation for a randori - the free-fighting practice which, on such occasions, is more of a rumble than an exchange of Japanese

martial niceties. He nodded. We bowed, and I returned to the vertical for the last time. As I stepped forward I was suddenly aware of this massive paw of a hand which

grabbed my judogi, and pulled me in a direction which I did not want to go. In mid-step I felt, rather than saw, a shovel of a foot scoop me up and spin me over. As I hit the ground, he pounced, and with an efficient strangle - kata-ha-iime -I was fast heading for oblivion.

The rest of the five-minute practice was, to put it briefly, more of the same. And, after the concluding bow, I returned to the edge of the mat to watch him deal summarily with Keith Davis, Britain's representative at the world championships in Paris three weeks ago, a huge visiting Frenchman, 1996 European champion. ("I know Kingston-san - he beat my brother in a competition in Japan," Okada told me later. Filial loyalty evidently runs high in Nippon society.)

By the end of the evening, certain facts were evident. First, Okada may be short on stature, but he makes up for it with massive forearms and thews, and a centre of gravity somewhere around his knees. Secondly, he has the fastest feet in the business, ready to sweep you horizontal before you even think of stepping.

And thirdly, the demise of Japanese judo has been greatly exaggerated.

In the 1980s, Japan could be expected to win half the medals on offer. In the 1973 world championships, they won every category. But in Paris, the Japanese team won only four of the 16 categories - the same number as France. Japan, the founding country of the combat sport, seems to be foundering as Britain has in cricket.

And that is why Hirotaka Okada has come to England for a year in a joint venture between the Japanese judo federation, the Budokwai and the High Wycombe Judo Centre, where he will also teach one day



Philip Nicksan (foreground) has that second-best feeling when he comes up against Hirotaka Okada at London's Budokwai judo club

Photgraph: Peter Jay

a week. He is here to learn, he says, and he does not only mean English.

Is it a Japanese affectation of humility? Later on Tuesday, he apologised and said he has been out of practice for the last couple of years since he retired - just teaching. He would be fitter and better shortly. It did not make us feel any better. But Japanese judo is facing

as an Olympic combat sport in 1964, it has seen a remarkable expansion in the world and the Japanese were always regarded as the mentors understandably so. The fighters and teachers who travelled the world did exhibit a remarkable technical command. They were acutely aware not only of the whole picture when two oppo-

nents faced each other, but the tiny details as well.

In a fast and furious attack, it was important for them that the leading foot should be at such and such an angle, that the left-hand collar grip, controlled by the little finger, would be Ding in this direction while the right-hand sleeve grip would be working differently. All this in the midst of a 180degree spin in a hundredth of great change. Since it emerged

> second. That is Japanese On the other band, so much of Western judo is dependent upon a more brutish power and blind speed, and tactics. Of course, Europe has produced its outstanding technicians too, and few are more respected in Japan than Britain's world champions, Neil Adams and

Karen Briggs. But increasingly, Japan is losing to the bruisers. This is worrying.

"In the Olympics at Atlanta, Japan only won three gold medals - all from judo," remarked Okada, "What will happen in the Olympics in Sydney?" As Japan relies on judo to raise its national head at Olympic level, its younger judo generation must come to terms with Western styles.

On the other hand, Japan feels it has a mission to preach a pure kind of judo, the technical, beautiful flowing kind that its exponents still do better than anyone else in the world. It is a serious dilemma.

Now 30, Okada is in the vanguard of the young judo movement looking to develop a new blend of tradition and combat

effectiveness. Judo is in his blood. His father did judo and amateur sumo, and Okada started judo at 10.

"At first I wanted to be a sumo champion, but..." and he grins as he indicates his short stature. Judo success came relatively early. He won his way from a provincial school to Tskuba University, from where he emerged to win his first world title in Essen, Germany, in 1987, in the light-middieweight category at the age of

Four years later, he became the first Japanese champion to successfully go up a weight and win another world title, this time at 86 kilograms. It was particularly spectacular, because he won it with a stunningly original throw - a new version of

kouchi-eake (minor inner reap). Many expert observers did not know how he did it until they saw the video.

"I first did it by chance in a competition when I was 14," he said. It is a throw he will always be remembered for.

His determination to always be the champion was shown when, in 1994, trying to make a come-back, he was caught in juji-gatame - the classic armlock - by Kenzo Nakamura, who went on to win the world and Olympic title. Okada refused to submit, and only managed to wriggle free after all the tendons in his left arm had snapped. He continued to fight with one arm, and creditably held Nakamura to a decision. He retired a year later.

kwai in recent years: Katsuhiko Kashiwazaki, Yasuhiro Yamashita, Nobuyuki Sato, and Hidetoshi Nakanishi - world champions to a man. With each, there has been a increasing relaxation of the formalities. In the old days, Japanese teachers were always "sensei" - teacher. Or, it was Mr whoever. So, on the first evening, the latest incumbent

marked to play a leading role

in Japanese judo for the future.

perhaps even to become the

next head coach of the Japan-

ese team. He follows in a long

line of outstanding judo men

who have come to the Budo-

"Call me... Hiro," he said. Hirotaka Okada has been Times have changed.

like to be addressed.

was asked - in the best English

polite manner - how he would

## Why BBC's new 'light programme' is in danger of floating away like a hot air balloon



CHRIS MAUME

SPORT ON TV

In the halcyon past of idealised memory, sport on the BBC was a simple affair. A few plummy words of introduction from a patrician type, the event itself, then a few more words bidding the viewer goodbye. In and out, no messing. Nowadays, of course, Murdoch has most live sport to himself (I have this image of him as the obese diner in The Meaning of Life, cramming one more little slither into his fat gob, but that's between me and my therapist). So the BBC has to improvise.

Which is where programmes like Onside (BBC1) come in. It's Wogan plus a few filmed inserts. Sport as chat. It should by rights be presented by Alan Partridge, but John In-

verdale has to do. It's clear from the exchanges with the first guest,

discussions (if you can call them that) are pitched - and that, as well as Wogan, Inverdale has learnt much from the umptuous sycophancy of Cliff Morgan on radio's Sport Since Dettori's seven win-

ners in a day he has become a bit of a media tart, so he made the perfect opener. "You are your sport's ambassador, aren't pause before answering told its you?" was about as challenging as the questions got. There was jockey's allegiances during the of the victor, could afford to be they jeering and throwing rotrecent Italy v England game, and an exploration of Dettori's taste for excruciating The question following on tank tops as evidenced on A Question of Sport and in his spot about the suspensions he had: As he sat down, he preened as guest presenter on Top of the but the tone was so light that himself and banged his micro-

who, if memory serves correctly, had a following sentence to deliver: "...and up six places at 16, 'Cecilia' by Fuggs."

Theriouthly. The cameraman drowned, apparently. Next up was a satellite in-

terview with Jacques Villeneuve, who declined to call Michael Schumacher a cheat (though the duration of his own story) and a filmed interview with Damon Hill, who, not a Tebbit-test question about the having to exhibit the largesse to Dettori on the comfy couch. they were loving it, in the way from the motor racing was lam to watch the lunatics drool. Pops. (A distinction, by the way, the whole programme was in phone, eliciting a little giggle which he shares with another danger of taking off and float- from the audience. My off the howis of derisive

balloon. Still, there was Dettori's

Top of the Pops' cohort to great television because he clearly occupies a different plane of existence, a fifth dimension which people think is really quite cool, the essence of an English contleman, rather

than a total and utter prat. His entrance, with his cane and little leather handbag, was come up with a statement not sublime. Why were the audience cheering? Why weren't unequivocal. Then it was back ten fruit and veg? Because said. aristocrats used to go to Bed-

Frankie Dettori, at what level Onside guest, Chris Eubank, ing away like a great big hot air favourite moment was the revelation that he's a qualified secretary with 60wpm typing speed. There are a few things savour. Eubank makes for I wouldn't mind dictating to him. But only if Nascem Hamed was my bodyguard.

> To be fair to Inverdale, he did ask one or two questions of substance. He wondered whether Eubank shouldn't retire before further defeats diminish his reputation. "I've too long ago, which goes like this: 'Life is a show. Thank God for the show' " Eubank

> The audience began to giggle again, somewhat bewildered, but it turned quickly into applause, which made you think the floor manager. must have stepped in to head

chat with Evander Holyfield, the action from that night's Premiership game (the one concession to sport as it is played rather than blethered calumny. If you were the editor of Onside and you had gone to the lengths of securstudio, what would you do?

Make him the centrepiece, the jewel in the crown, sit him on the sofa at the beginning and keep him there until the credhim? The question hardly

needs considering. And you'd think hard about what you're going to say.

laughter. There was another When Inverdale put it to him filmed interview, a chummy that the Dutch never win anything, he looks suitably nonplussed, though he did him the courtesy of answering intelligently rather than giving him a good slap. There were quesabout), and then the climax, tions about his relationship and the programme's greatest with Gary Lineker at Barcelona and about his son Jordi, which were fair enough. But there should have been so ing Johan Cruyff, live in the much more. Next week's guests include Luciano Pavarotti, which gives you some idea how Onside is going to pan out.

The BBC promise more of its roll? Or would you squeeze the same, by the way, with talk him in at the end, devoting of a Des Lynam chat show and seven of your 50 minutes to another comedy slot. But, and I hate to say it, if it's live sport you're after in the future you're going to have to bow down to the anti-Christ in the sky.

THE INDEDENINENT

## Sinon to sign off season with a flourish

With huge fields for the last meeting of the year at Newmarket today, punters would be wise not to throw caution to their wins. But, as Greg Wood argues, it may pay to side with a trainer who has come to love this meeting.

And so the moment has finally arrived to bid farewell to the Rowley Mile at Newmarket for another six months or so, and as always, many racegoers will do so in the fervent hope that between now and the spring of 1998, someone will come along and build a proper racecourse in its place which actually gives speciators the chance to see what is happening.
Then again, when the con-

tests are as difficult to fathom as some of the handicaps on this afternoon's card, it is sometimes far better to have little clue as to what is going on. The Ladbroke Autumn Handicap, the penultimate race of the season at Headquarters, is matched in terms of strength and competitiveness only by the sevenfurlong event which will bring down the curtain half an hour later. Wetherby, however, takes things to the other extreme. with just 13 runners in three televised races, and seven of those in the juvenile hurdle. Thankfully, the third component of the afternoon, at Ascot, strikes a perfect balance.

The Newmarket card offers more than mere pinsticking, however, since two of the winners on the same day last year, Ali-Royal and Silver Patriarch, went on to record Group One victories during the current compaign (indeed. the latter would have been the Derby winner if his nose was a couple of inches longer). Silver Patriarch's win 12 months ago came in the Zetland Stakes, a III-furlong Listed race for twoed four excellent performers in just the last five years, with Bob's Return (1993 St Leger). Double Trigger (1995 Gold Cup) and Double Eclipse also among its winners.

The last two horses were both trained by Mark Johnston. who clearly likes this race,

since today he saddles three of

the seven runners. "I wouldn't be running three horses if it wasn't the best opportunity for them as individuals," Johnston said yesterday. "because there are very few opportunities for two-year-olds who are potential top class stayers. Sinon has got to be the first string on form, but I'm not saying that St Helensfield won't beat him. They're all at very early stages of their careers so any one of them could emerge as the big hope."

Sinon's only outing to date should sound a warning for punters, since he started at 20-1 and comfortably beat a strong favourite - who was also trained by Johnston. This was a performance of some potential, though, and Sinon (3.10) is the one to be on today. It will be a surprise if any of

the runners in the Ben Marshall RICHARD EDMONDSON

NAP: SILK ST IOHN (Newmarket 3.45) NB: St Helensfield (Newmarket 3.10)

Stakes goes on to emulate Ali-Royal's success in the Sussex Stakes next season, but Samara (2.40) has solid form and will be a value alternative to Desert Beauty. The Ladbroke Handicap threw up a 33-1 winner 12 months ago and could well do so again, although there are several improving three-year-olds in the 28-strong field who may well be ahead of the handicapper. Desen Track will find plenty of support, as will Consort. but two solid alternatives are For Your Eyes Only and SILK ST JOHN (nap 3.45), who has run well from a bad draw on

both his previous starts. Storm Alert has won the United House Construction Chase at Ascot in three of the last four years, but it could be worth opposing him with Down The Fell (next best 2.30), who made a promising return over hurdles. Samlee (1.55) is another it is a watching brief only, with One Man sure to start at long odds-on to beat Barton Bank in the Charlie Hall Chase. The juvenile hurdle is also fascinating. but it is impossible to decide between Monarch's Pursuit.

Amitge and Stoned Immaculate. Results, page 23

## Stable advice on the pick of the winter jumpers

**TOBY BALDING** "Bellator was unbeaten in two

starts as a juvenile hurdler last season, winning the Grade Two Wensleydale Hurdle by eight lengths at Wetherby at the start of November and then following up by 15 lengths at Ascot three weeks later. He missed the rest of the season due to injury. Both of those races were on good going, but I think he will be suited by cut in the ground and he could show further improvement granted such conditions. He should stay two and a half miles this season and, after giving him a pipe-opener on the Flat, I plan to run him in the Silver Salver Handicap Hurdle at Chepstow in November. Bellator is not that big, about 15 [hands] two [inches] maybe 15 three and looks a natural hurdler. Hurdante, on the other hand, is a big, strong animal who also is going to need two and a half miles and plenty of cut in the ground. He showed plenty of promise last season, winning a novice hurdle at Leicester by nine lengths, and is going to make a decent

CHARLIE BROOKS Hoh Warrior is a horse I hope will develop into a decent novice chaser. He won well on his chasing debut over two at Market Rasen [2m 1f 110yds] last Saturday. I'm going to sit

novice chaser this winter."

down and look at his pedigree - he is by Lord Americo - but I could see him staying three miles over fences. He wouldn't want the ground too soft, but then he wouldn't want it too firm either. Andsuephi won a two miles novice hurdle at Stratford recently and is a nice sort. He should stay further than that and should go well on soft ground."

"Simply Dashing, who is effective from 21/2-3m, will be going for plenty of valuable handicap chases this winter. He acts on any ground, with the exception of heavy, and will start off at Wetherby (today). Good Vibes is a useful handicap hurdler who will be kept busy this

winter. He also goes to Wether-

TIM EASTERBY

by [today.] MICKY HAMMOND "Lord Future won a bumper two seasons ago and was fourth on his debut in a novice hurdle not run subsequently. He should stay 21/m and make a fair sort this winter. Traceability was unplaced on his hurdles debut at Market Rasen last Saturday but, a useful performer

Making a list of horses to follow is an absorbing alternative to form-book study. The Independent's 1977 Flat horses to follow has won 33 races and shows a

pre-tax profit of £9.69 to a £1 level stake. Successes include Fly To The Stars (20-1 & 14-1), Fame Again (12-1) and Epic Stand (10-1). With the curtain about to fall on

the Flat Turf season, it is the turn of jump trainers' to map out campaigns for their strings. The leading trainers tell lan Davies about their winter hopes.



Simply Dashing, who makes his seasonal debut at Wetherby today, is expected to jump to it this winter

Photograph: Dan Abraham/Sporting Life

**NICKY HENDERSON** 

"Fiddling The Facts will make a novice chaser and do well this winter providing we get some rain. She's a lovely big mare who won over three miles over hurdles and will want a trip over fences. We had some nice horses running in bumpers last season and one I particularly like is Golden Eagle, who is a nice young borse He will stay 2-21/2 miles. He's a big strong horse." HENRIETTA KNIGHT

"Storm Forecast will go novice hurdling. She was rather surprisingly beaten in her only run in a bumper last season he is a half brother to Tullymurry Toff by Strong Gale who was bought with chasing in mind. However, he is well capable of winning over hurdles. I should think 21/2m will be his trip and, being ground but not heavy. He is a fine-looking animal. Maid For Adventure is another nice prospect. She won twice over hurdles last season and is going straight over fences this term. Maid For Adventure will be suited by around 21/2 miles.

and, also by Strong Gale, is an-

other who wouldn't want the ground too testing. She will be aimed at the Tattersalls mares' chase series which we won the final of last year at Uttoxeter with Tellicherry.

PAUL NICHOLLS 'See More Business is in good form and will run soon. The only time he has been beaten over fences so far was when he came up against Dorans Pride. He wants 3m plus and soft ground, which he hasn't had so far. He will be entered for the Gold Cup but I'm going to bring him along quietly and start him off in the Rehearsal Chase at Chepstow before. building up to the big races in the spring. Strong Chairman is a big strong horse who won all five of his point-to-points last season. He is going to make a

DAVID NICHOLSON Castle Sweep was slightly disappointing after winning the Silver Salver Handicap Hurdle last season but will probably go forthe same race again. He is going for longer distances this season. His target is the Stayers' Hurdle at the Cheltenham

Festival. Escarteligue won in good style at the Grand National meeting in April and goes chasing this season. He looks the sort to do really well over fences."

"Cadoagold is going novice chasing and should win a few races. He is effective from 2-21/m. Potentate is a useful handicap burdler, again at 2-21/m. He is entered in the Silver Saiver at Chepstow and

MARTIN PIPE

sible he will go novice chasing later on.

might well run there. It is pos-

JENNY PITMAN "Mentmore Towers pleased us when third in the Sefton Novice Hurdle over 3m at Aintree in April. He will start off in staying handicap hurdles but is a big strong typical chasing type and Year. He would not want the ground too firm. Princeful finished second to Shadow Leader in the Supreme Novices' Hordle at the Cheltenham Festival who will stay 21/2m over hurdles this season. He is a gross horse, who has taken a while to get fit,

**GORDON RICHARDS** 

"Mr Frangipani is going to make a hurdler. He's a beautiful horse, I wish I had a whole stable full like him. He won't run until we have some rain. He is going to stay 21/:-3m and will make a good novice hurdler. Military Academy is another lovely sort who will make a three mile chaser. He, too, won't run until the ground gets.

**OLIVER SHERWOOD** "Bear Claw will make a useful

handicap chaser. He won the EBF Novices' Hurdle Final at Cheltenham a couple of seasons ago and looks well handicapped over fences. He is a big, strong horse who will be suited by 21/-3m and want a bit of give in the ground. Knappers Nap had one run in a bumper last son and is going to go novice hurdling. He will stay over at 2-21/2 miles but will get further later on. Another strong individual, he will also want soft ground."

SUE SMITH "Kenmore Speed is an improving 21/2-3m chaser who is well suited by a stiff track. He is a very exciting prospect."

is best on good ground and should win more races in the coming months. The Last Fling could develop into a Gold Cup contender. He is a very talented horse, who stays well. The Rehearsal Chase at Chepstow could be an early target for him and he looks set for a good season. Go Native remains a novice hurdler, despite winning at Aintree on his hurdling debut in the spring, and can take

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"不是我真是"。

advantage of this." NIGEL TWISTON-DAVIES Queen Of Spades [won at Bangor yesterdayl will make a fair novice chaser. She's speedy and will only race at around 2m. Kerawi is a useful burdler and will be going for all the top pattern hurdles at around 2m. I have high hones for him."

VENETIA WILLIAMS when winning on his chasing debut at Worcester but he won't be rushed into anything too ambitious. The Village Way won an Irish point-to-point in the spring and ran well in bumpers at Chepstow and Worcester. He will want 21/2m over hurdles and



**GREG WOOD** THE A-Z OF BETTING

#### G is for . .

Getting Out Stakes: As in "getting out of trouble", an ironic nickname for the last race on the card, when five or six apparently unbeatable selections have already failed to oblige and the other members of your party have long since stopped believing - or even listening to - a single word you say. Forget all about seventh-race salvation, for it is written that the only one among you to find the winner will be that irritating bloke whose name you can't remember, who only came because he works with someone else, and

previous races thanks to horses with names that remind him of ex-girlfriends.

on the Flat, promises to do a lot

better over timber in due

Going: Ignore - momentarily at least - the distance of the race or the weight to be carried: the most important single factor to consider when deciding whether to back a horse is whether it will act on the ground. The best horses, so they say, will go on anything, but the vast majority - i.e., the sort the likes of us back day in and day out - will have a definite preference for (or aversion to) either a sound or an easy surface. The right ground is essential if they are to produce their best form, and it is no coincidence has already picked up on four that bookmakers hate long deed, only - gift to the English

favourites, but all it takes is a day or two of rain and suddenly every race in Britain is little more than a lottery. In fact, it does not even require rain - a heavy-handed clerk of the course who simply cannot resist trying out his spanking new watering system can create almost as much havoc. Usually, he will then compound the error by insisting that the going is still good to firm, even when the jockeys return to weigh in looking like mud wrestlers.

"Goowonmysahn": Bettingshop culture's principal - in-

spells of settled weather. As the language, the distinctive call of barometer rises, so too does the the agitated punter is repeated percentage of winning four or five times at increasing volume. Often followed by a cry of "awbladdyell".

> Gorytus: Odds-on favourite for the 1982 Dewhurst Stakes, only to finish tailed-off last. The forensics proved inconclusive, but many punters - and not just those who lost a small fortune on him - will always be convinced that Gorytus was...

Got At: History does not record whether a shifty chap with a dose of hemlock hidden in his toga was ever caught hanging around the Coliseum stables before a big chariot twice, a thorough job which en- are Help Desks, extra staff, oc-

long as people have gambled on racehorses, there have been others who will stoop to anything to ensure that the odds are firmly in their favour, and though it is theoretically pos- in 1990, when two fancied horssible that a punter might dope es were stopped. Those cona hot favourite in a small field and back all of its opponents, there will more usually be a bookmaker or two involved somewhere. They might have big liabilities on an ante-post favourite, as was rumoured to be the case with Pinturischio back in 1961, when the colt was a hot favourite for the Derby. In the weeks before the race, he was doped not once, but

but will be ready soon."

form, it seems a fair bet. For as line up at Epsom, Alternatively, a bookie will organise a doping and then lay the horse concerned for all he is worth, Doncaster's St Leger meeting cerned were never caught. thereby giving every embittered punter in Britain a convenient excuse whenever their back a beaten favourite.

Grand National: Not for nothing do the bookmakers go to considerable lengths on Na-"once-a-year" punters. There race, but on all subsequent sured that he was not able to casionally even a smile, and all hooked for life.

because the layers know that no other race has the same pow er to hook people on betting. All it takes is £1 each-way on as seems to have happened at a 12-1 winner, and suddenly the "once-a-year" backers who thought they could handle it find themselves drawn deeper. Next, they are dabbling in small doubles each Saturday afternoon. Before they know it they are out of control, experipoor judgement leads them to menting with the Class A stuff -Yankees and Tricasts - before finally, inevitably, rock bottom is reached. When the first slip comes under the window for a horse in a big sprint handicap, tional day to look after the the pusher - sorry, bookie knows that the investment has paid off, and the poor fool is

### WOLVERHAMPTON

HYPERION 7.00 Villarica 7.30 State Approval 8.00 Roi Brisbane 8.30 Stoppes Brow 9.00 Island Girl 9.30 Village Native

GOING: Standard. STALLS: 71 - outside; rest - Inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: High from 81 to 1m 41. DRAW ADVANTAGE: High from 6f to 1m 4f.

● Fibresand, left-hand, owal course.

● Course is N of town on A449 Wolverhampton station in APMISSION: Club 25; Editorsalis 25; CAR PARIX; Free.

● LEADING TRAINSIES: R Hollinshead 60-559 (10.5%), M Johnston 52-225 (23.1%), J Berry 43-228 (14.4%), M Johnston 52-225 (23.1%), J Berry 43-228 (14.4%), EADING JOCKEYS: S Sanderm 39-229 (12%), J Oxinn 24-34 (23.1%), D Wright 23-342 (15.5%), A Clark 20-190 (10.5%), FAVOURITES: 390-206 (22.3%), ELINKERED FIRST TIME: Sharp Monkey (visored) (20.0%).

7.00 CHARLECOTE MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS E)

£3,000 added 3YO 1m 100yds CONCER ARALL (187) S CWilliams 90 ... Dage O'Neil 12 (5450) PRESENTABENT (92) S Bowng 90 \_\_\_\_ C Temper (5) 1 453400 VLLAGE PUB (11) K C-Bown 90 \_\_\_\_ T Spelin 13 

EETTING: 4-8 Villarica. 6 Brann Boy, 10 Cont Worry Miles, 12 Levelul Blue, 14 Concern Arall, Horstern Accord, 16 Preventionent, Village Pals, 20 St-7.30 SHIFNAL CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) \$2,800 added 1m 4f 19/03 GREENSPAN (174) (CD) W Mar 59 11 \_\_\_\_ A Clark 11 000025 FILIAL (30) (C) J Peace 4/8/9 \_\_\_\_\_ K Pallon 1

20000 WYSTIC STRAND (SD) W G M Tuper 492 D McGaffo (7)? CSD46 BONNE VALLE (28) (C) B Poling 388 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ T Species 19 2004 | Manhael Luich (1-) (C) J Species 386 \_\_\_\_\_\_ T Species 19 2004 | Manhael Luich (1-) (C) J Species 386 \_\_\_\_\_\_ N Copies 12 \_\_\_\_\_ N Copies 12 \_\_\_\_\_ 10 Copies 12

BETTING: 9-4 State Approval, 4 Filial, 5 Grandspan, 13-2 Rez Mandi, 8 Militaria Star, 10 Walto Phaton, 12 Bospos Villa, 140thers 8.00 PENDEFORD MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 2YO 6f

0500 ARCANESTAR (A) A James 90 .... 

- 13 decimal -BETTING: 64 Rol Brishane, 92 Main Statet, 6 Kennet, 7 Sharp Fellow, 8 Lady Laphrosig, 10 Sazab Moon Classic, 12 Long Brand, 14 others 8.30 GODFREY MYTTON HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,325 added 7f

4005 CPERM GFT (19 C) Nithroden 00 TG Michaelphin 12 V
4000 BOLD BFORT (8) C/ K C-Bown 59 12 \_\_\_\_ T Spelle 11
3001 STORE OF CHERON (94 (2) (8) OSmarl 499 J Almania 7 V
30005 ASTRAC (8) (0) N Teiter 896 \_\_\_\_\_\_ S Senden 10
20022 AUSST THE BEAR (29 (0) J Bowy 491 F Feeley (3) 8
30030 MR SPONGE (29) (6) I Baird 3 8 S \_\_\_ Marin Dryte 6
6000 STORPES BROW (14 (2) G Libore 58 TS \_A Clim's 1 V
00390 PERCLES (16) (CD) Gay Nationay 3 8 TS \_\_\_ J Fortune 8
800004 MR BERGERAC (3) (C) B Paining 6 8 C2. D Sentency (6) 4

- 12 decimal -- 12 decimal -BETTING: 1-2 State OI Casifon, 4 Orean Gill, 6 Sir Jony, 7 Sir Sponge, 8 Pericles, 10 Mr Bergamer, 12 Albert The Bear, Astron., Buid Effort, 14 Shappen Brow, Plan For Profit, 33 Salitormalis 9.00 MEDLAND BAR SELLING NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS G) \$2,500 added 2YO 1m 100yds

100405 DOCKLAHDS DISPATCH (19) N Trible 9 7 King Tighter N SI JAND GRE, (12) D Abushov & 2 \_\_\_\_ S Welmorb & CHENSHED (14) (SP) N Tabler & 11 \_\_\_\_ S Species 11 THECOMESIACHOUNG (12) S C Williams & 10 \_ K Felbor 7 ASC SHARP MICHAET (17) Mic N Michaeler 8.9 S Dromas S V COOD PRESUMPECTION (14) R Humon 8.8 Dame O'Nolk 13 COOL LADY EL (15) S Sum 1.6 7 Seek 3 

— 13 decimed — BETTRIG: 7-2 Pink Ticket, 9-2 Charlehold, 8 The Comebachking, 7 Ba-9.30 WEST MIDLANDS HANDICAP (CLASS F) £2,800 added 6f 00000) WELLORS (\$1) (D) M Heaton-Big 4 100 \_\_\_ S Occasion 13 00500) HCH MARSTIC (127) (CD) (RF) Ron Thompson 4 100\_\_\_

3840 BOLD ARISTOCHAT (20 (3) RHalestont 6 100 \_ Flynch #2 

#### KELSO

HYPERION 12.45 Giverneyourhand 1.15 Finer Feelings 1.50 Know-No-No 2.25 Anika's Gem 2.55 Tighter Budget 3.30 Fatehalkhair 4.05

GOUNG: Good to firm (Good in piaces).

QUING: Goung to form off 88481, ADMISSION: Cub. £12. Takessels 27 (Students & Sortion others sell QUAR PARK; Free.

QUING: TRAINERS: Mos M. Reveiley 35-14 (QU7%), M. Hammond 21-43 (226%), G. Richards 15-47 (207%), M. Hammond 21-43 (226%), G. Richards 15-47 (207%), M. Landing 17-32 (212%).

QUINCERS: AD-BET (MOS%), F. Garriery 17-32 (212%).

QUINCERS: MS-BET (MOS%), SUMMERSED FIRST TIME: (Ung Of Show (visored) (225).

Anilos's Gent (visored) (225).

12,45 GLENGOYNE HIGHLAND MALT WHISKY NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3m 1f 

PETER & GILLIAN ALLAN 'NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,700 added 2m 6f 110yds

244 LITTLE DUKE (20) Mis \$ Bachane 5 to 2... 09 BELLOOT (22) Flatrop 5 10 2 \_\_\_\_ E Calapian (3) PRO CHINOCKS DAUGHTER (14) G Richards 10 \_\_\_\_ A Daubh

BETTRIG: 10-11 Chiapat's Daugitar, 3-7 Finer Feelings, 7-2 Little Daios, 14-1 MR-Dot, 25-1 Coligitation, More Champagne 1.50 ISLE OF SKYE BLENDED SCOTCH WHISKY HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £6,000 added

- 62°H KROWENC-NO (47) (D) M Hammond B '2.0 \_ R Gantay 1U/2: BRAY'S DELICHT (943) (CD) (87) H Man 9 H 2 A Dobble V P4084 MCMAC (22) Mim L Russell 8 10 0 AS Shire V 43654 BLAZBIR (21) (2) J Habback 10 10 B Shires 0F468- REGAL DOMAIN (191) Wat Mestell 8 10 D JK Johann PF-56 SUPER GUY (7) J Bocky 5 10 C McCorreck (7)

HARROW HOTEL (DALKETTH) NOVICE SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,500 added 2m 110vds 

HIGHFIELD FET (FIN) C Cleant 4 10 2 S Mayer FING OF SHOW (FIT) R Allan 6 10 2 S Malense (7) V MISTER WCODSTICK (SI) C Rather 4 10 2 D Parisher CHIEL LAD (14) Miss M Milgan 4 10 2 Miss Chief (14) Miss M Milgan 4 10 2 Miss Chief (14) Miss M Milgan 4 10 2 Miss Chief (14) Miss M Milgan 4 10 2 Miss Chief (14) Miss M Milgan 4 10 2 Miss Chief (14) Miss M Milgan 4 10 2 Miss Chief (14) Miss M Milgan 4 10 2 Miss Chief (14) Miss M Milgan 4 10 2 Miss Chief (14) Miss M Milgan 4 10 2 Miss Chief (14) Miss M Milgan 4 10 2 Miss Chief (14) Miss M Milgan 4 10 2 Miss M Milgan 4 10 Miss M Milgan 4 Miss M Milgan 4 10 Miss M Milgan 4 Miss M Miss M Milgan 4 Miss M Milgan 4 Miss M Milgan 4 Miss M Milgan 4 Miss M Miss M Miss 203-4 AMKA'S GEM (MB S Brachume 4 107 ... A Dobbin V B DURBORRAI (27) Min M Randoy 4 107 .... G Lee (3) 3 SHE'S A WINNEST (F138) Phignisth 4 107 ... Jacobse (7) BETTING: 11-4 Durrowen, Et al. 9 / Grand Popo, 10-1 King OT Show, Orlal Lad, 20-1 Calling The These Woodsfield, She's A Wignes, 6-1 Ad-lar's Gent, 7-1 Highfield Pat, 8-1 Grand Popo, 10-1 King OT Show, Orlal Lad, 20-1 Calling The Trace

2.55 SALVESEN FOOD SERVICES HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £7,500 added 2m 6f 110yds ROWL VACATION (14) (CD) G M MODELL Chillegion
POPPESIVAL (17) (C) Mas S Williamson St. 6 ... Supple
TREFITER BLOCK! (14) (CD) D Saye, D & L. A Dokkin
THE TONSTER (CD) Mas M Million T G f BETTRIG: 7-4 Tigher Budget, 9-4 Royal Vacation, 5-2 (in Bassies, 6-1

3.30 EDINBURGH & NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY TURF CLUBS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) 23,700 added 2m of 110 ds D2N FRIEHALIGHAR (18) 6 Ellion 5 11 10 CHADITHUK (7) 6/802 PHARMSTICE (14) (CD) Mar A Shidain \$ 0 1 IONG OF THE HORSE (183) R Johnson & To

-4 declared -eight: 10st. Rue handisep weights: King of Theillion Set Sib. Sweet Attitle Str.

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Sect.

4.05 LEVY BOARD CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) \$3,000 added 2m 110yds 231 7 Uyds

455 SHAHSAM (287) (D) Jinthuck 9 8 10 B Gratin

454 STRALEON (14) (CD) 8 Ren's 17 Blacos (A)

454 Höhlad (WY) (I G) Kohner 9 8 C Morrow (B)

244 EINHACK LADY (14) 8 Metasson 7 6 C G Longelon

544 EINHACK LADY (14) 8 Metasson 7 6 C G Longelon

6534 AMBER HOLLY (14) 10 Date 8 0 4 C Collegion

6534 AMBER HOLLY (14) 10 Date 8 0 C A Recommodition

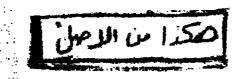
654 AMBER HOLLY (14) 10 Date 8 0 C A Recommodition

655 Holling Holly (14) 10 Date 8 0 C A Recommodition

655 Holling Holly (14) 10 Date 8 0 C A Recommodition

657 HOLL True headless weight Anabor Holly (15) Holling Holly (15) Holling Weig, 3-1 Lamback Lady, 7-2 Main Holly (15) Date 8 0 C A Recommodition

657 HOLL (14) Holling Weig, 3-1 Lamback Lady, 7-2 Main Holly (15) Date 8 0 C A Recommodition (14) The Collegion (15) Date 8 0 C A Recommodition (15) Date 8 0 C A Reco



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Bar Mass II

1990 No. 2012 17 754

 $\{(a,b),(a,b)\in A(b),(a,b)\}$ 

1.2

12.50 Mystik Day 1.20 Song Of The Sword 1.55 Bertone 2.30 Celibate

**ASCOT** 

2.30 Celibate

GOING: Good (Good to Firm in places).

BigNt-hand course with testing uphat finan Tough tences.

Course is no function of A329 and A330 Station adjoins course. ADMISSION: Members 18-25 years, half price): Grandstand & Poddock 270: Saver Fing 25. CAR PARK: Free parturg available.

LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: D Nicholson – 14 wins from 59 numers gives a success ratio of 237%, N Henderson 13-60 (6.3°s) N Twistion-Davies 13-62 (5.9°s). M Pipa 14-49 (22.4%), O Sherwood 11-62 (177°s).

LEADING JOC (18%), R Johnson 6-23 (251°s) P Holley 5-32 (156°s).

FAYOURITES: 120 wins from 310 races (287°s).

BLANKERED FIRST TIME: Grundon (3-0). 12.50 UNITED HOUSE HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 3YO 2m 110yds J 2m) 110y(IS

MYSTIK DAY (25) (D) (R Starkey) M Poe 11 2

BORRADOR (P31) (Dr P Waker Mrs J Writehead & Mrs Junes) R Carts 11 D Mords

JUNIKAY (P11) (Elargowan Racing Partners) R Ingern 11 0 D Golfsghar

JUNIKAY (P11) (Elargowan Racing Partners) R Ingern 11 0 D Golfsghar

PALAEMON (P30) (Mrs B Swins) G Baldrag 11 0 B Fontion

VIRTUOSO (P148) (Mrs M Demie) C Mann 11 0 M A Fitzgarald

SOUND APPEAL (14) (R W and J R Fitzer A Foster 2) 13 A Fitzgarald

BETTING: 7-4 Mystik Day, 3 Virtuoso, 7-2 Sound Appeal, 6 Palaemon, 13-2 Junitary, 25 Borrador

1996 Squires Occasion (CAM) 3 11 0 A P McCoy 2-7 fav (R Aketursti ? tan) 1.20 UNITED HOUSE DEVELOPMENT NOVICE BBC1 49. GINGER ROK (USA) (212) (Narro Van Doorne) N°5 J Perman 4 to 0. R Ferman 4 to 0. Carrige, yellow chevron and severes, carrier and severe and se

HYPERION

3.05 Amber Spark

3.40 Eulogy

4.10 Palamon

wanting that Soing Of The Sword, prother useful on the Flat, landed the odds three times over timbor in May, but he has more to do under a 7th penaltry in this company. At least he will have been pharpened up by a recent Flat run at Newmarket, although he timehed only 18th of the May and the May and the May are controlled to the May are controlled. 1.55 BAGSHOT HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) BBC1 4316-1 BERTONE (17) (C) (Mrs Harry J Duffey) K Balley 5 12 0 Green and red (quartered), yellow alceves, red cap (NCHCALLOCH (F14) (CD) (F J Caner) J King 8 11 5

7796- [NCHCALLOCH (F19) (CD) (F J Durier) J Krog 8 II 5 J Cutlety
Block, emental greats chevers, emental great cap
G5-1F PATHER SKY (14) (0) (Varneth Korrieck) O Sherwood 6 II D J Cutlety
Pather and yellow finiteds, distress reversed, genthered cap
ISS3 BARONET (195) (0) (birs David Thompson) D Nicholson 7 IV 11 R Johnson
Park, purple cross bets, hopped steaver, purple cap
CP24 STORMITRACKER (41) (D) (BF) (fire David C Wisedon 8 IV 9 G Bradley
David Birs, emend great cross bets, white absence and cap
2412-3 SAMLEE (26) (D) (White Lon Parthematic) P Hobbe 8 IV 9 D Bridgester
David Birs, Hollow stars, Fled steaves
CS38-U HILLWALK (14) (D) (BL Shore) R Curts in IV 9 D Morris
Red, white steaves, red and gay segmented cap
GFP21 GGD SPEED YOU (143) (D) (Walco) C Mortock 8 IV 9 C Missade B Witte, large rearron ands, while steems, nercon PC22- PRISH STAMP (F47) (CD) (F O'Dornell) F Murphy 8 10 0 ... Emerged green, while hoppe and elected, orange

Entered green, white hoose and places, cange cap

BETTING: 4-1 leckscallock, 9-2 Senies, 5-1 Bettons, Stormstracker, 11-2 Father Sky, 13-2 Beronst,
7-1 Irlah Stamp, 12-1 God Speed You, 25-1 Milliosit;
1995. Go Betton, 7-10-4 M A Rizgaraid 2-1 IJ O'Snea) 5-ns

FORM GRUDE

STORMTRACKER enjoyed a good first season over lences, winning at Worcester and
Chelisham in the autumn, and went on to rurn a binder from 96 out of the handcap in
the National Hunt Handcap Chese at the Festival to be a length and a half second to
flyers Nap. He was pulled up in the Scottish National next time when seeming not to
slay, but there was plenty of encouragement in his reappearance fourth to Garrylough
at Market Rasen, beaten only about two lengths. When Stormstracker was pulled up at
Ayr, Samilee and Baronet accelled themselves to be second and third to Belmont King.
They will both with more ractes when returned to longer trips. Samilee shallow is and a
half lengths thad to Festher Sky on his Chepstow return and hos every chance of overturning those placings, with the run behind him and a 6th put. Inchesitiock won his faster
time clears over fences lost senson after his Cessnewich trumph, including a beating of
Go Bollestic Oyer course and distance Bertone did well to win 8s assiy as he did at Wetherby on his return orter a bad bunder five out.

Selection: STORMTRACKER

2.30 UNITED HOUSE CONSTRUCTION HANDICAP BBC1 CHASE (CLASS 8) £25,000 added 2m CHASE (CLASS 8) E25,000 added 2m

G64 STORM ALERT (203) (CD) (Mis Dawn Perrett) D Nicholson 11 11 10 ... R Johnson
Dek blzu, yallow alseves, dark Bise and red stoped cap

P3430 BIG MATT (180) (CD) (T Bertheld and W Brown) N Hersterson 9 10 13 ... M A Fitzgerald
Relicon brown steleves, yallow armiets

23F2-1 CELIBATE (14) (D) (Stanford Bridge Partnership) C Mann 8 10 13 ... ... G Bradley
Gay and crange (pustnered), compe steleves, dark blue cap

(2540 KBRECT (23) (CD) (Mis all Emery) P Hobbs 10 10 10 ... ... B Powell
Yellow, dark blue strops, dark blue steleves, yallow armies, white cap

22F21 LAND AFAR (252) (D) (T Ford) P R Webber 10 10 8 ... ... J Osborne
Brown Direct system stress before severes former can Bage, brown spots, beige stewers, and seems, brown cap 11/33- LEOTARD (178) (CD) (Mrs P A H Harley) Miss V Williams 10 10 5 . . . R Teamton (2)  BETTING: 7-2 Collecte, 9-2 Opera The Felf, Indian Jockey, 5-1 Load Afac, 11-2 Big Mart, 11-2 Storm Alart, 12-1 Könnet, 14-1 Lected 1956 Storm Alart 10 11 9 R Johnson: evens for (C Nicholson) 4 zan

Sign Starm Alert C is a R Johnson evers law (C Nicholads) 4 and FORM GUIDE.

With Indian Jockey and Down The Fell in the held, they are lively to go a strong peop which should work in LAND AFAR's lawour. The ten-year-old did neetly well in his first self-son over fences, winning three breas as Kempton and Smalling second in his other four scales, all in the basic company. On his second start, he found Cellbushe as lengths to good at Cheltelram, finding less than expected from the second last, but that course is hardy by as taxoums and line pace was not stong. Land Afar can reverse placings with Cellbushe and line pace was not stong that of QF Royal in the Aride and locked bette on 5b better terms. Cebete went on to be third to QF Royal in the Aride and locked good beating America (rec 6tb) is langer and three-quarters at Kempton on his resent return. Inch Alar beat that make their his language over the same top first time out last section. Index Jockey would be suited by a tight course than this When he wan over course and distance in April. Sublime Fallow was his only relation opportant and found nothing from the last. Down The Fell everyed his finest hour when winning at Airdine or Grand National day (Celebate fell at the fifth). He will be fit after a furtiles run at Carleste but his living finished behind Land Afar. Selection: LAND AFAR

3.05 BILL BIGMORE SOTH BIRTHDAY NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £5,000 added 2m 4f 

3.40 BINFIELD NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) 26,000 added 2m 3f 110yds 3-121 AMLAH (JSA) (19) (Sano Garran) P Hobbs 5 11 8. B Ponell
2.5-21 HERBERT LOGGE (22) (D) (Nrs Harry J Dufley) K Balay 8 17 5. A Thomson
002F0. EULOGY (197) (Nuhaba Cooper R Rose 7 11 1. D Subjection
P22F5. CRUMDON (206) (Nrs L Taylor Mrs L Taylor 8 11 1. R Balancy Y
F33. CASTLEME (106) (Nrs D Phalor) J Howard Jahrach 5 11 0. P Carbinry
P41022 FARR SOCIETY (23) (D) (Forn Ferbrus) P Bufler 6 11 0. G Bradley
434. MR MCONLIGHT (233) (Nrs J A Cohen) C Brodus 5 11 0. G Bradley

BETTING: 5-4 Aminh, 3 Enlogy, 7-2 Herbert Lodge, 10 Feb Society, 12 Mr Moonleght, 20 Cantilwe 1996, Strong Promes 5 rt 5 K Gaule (3) 1-8 tev (G Hubbard) 2 ran

4.10 COPPER HORSE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £7,000 added 2m 110yds 303-0 GREENBACK (BEL) (14) (C) (D) (Jack Joseph) P Hobbs 6 11 10 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ C Minude 1154- CAPTAIN (NEDWE (351) (D) (Greeke Partneshp) G McCeurt 9 11 6 \_\_\_\_\_ Gny Lavde (3) (711-1 MAHPANALI (12) (C F Sparrowheeld) G L Moore 5 10 2 \_\_\_\_\_\_ R Johnson F103 P HAAMON (354) (21) (D) (Cohed Press) P Ecoles 4 10 9 \_\_\_\_\_\_ R Genet 112-2 MRS Est (II) (D) (SF) (G Z Matel) P Michols 5 10 1 \_\_\_\_\_\_ L Counties (9) 31-153 SCOTTISH BANKSI (9) (D) (William J Kely) P N Webber 9 10 0 \_\_\_\_\_\_ J Caborns

BETTING:6-4 Habrawali, 5-2 Palamon, 3 Mrs Em, 12 Captain Kneche, Scottish Barabi, 14 Gree 1996, Silver Groom 6 11 4 S Ryan (5) 5-2 (R Akehurat) 5 ran

#### WETHERBY

HYPERION 12.40 Golden Thunderbolt 2.50 Pridwell 1.10 Spearhead Again 3.25 One Man 45 Good Vibes 4.00 Amitge 2.20 Simply Dashing

GOING: Good to Firm.

GLIST Annu ovel circuit. Aun-m of 200yds sightly uphil.

Course is NE of fown on B1224 near junction of A58 and A1 ADMISSION: Cub £13, Telessels/Grandstand enclosure £3, Course enclosure £3 (center ottzens £150). CAR PARK: center of course £10 (including up to 4 adules).

LEADING TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley 42-166 (£53%). G Richards 23-96 (24%), D Nicholson 16-58 (£75%), Mrs S Smith 14-55 (£55%), L Wys Easterby 14-102 (\$37%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: P Niven 42-156 (£55%), L Wys 25-145 (24%), A Maguire 21-86 (24%), R Garnity 11-117 (24%), R Durrecody 7-25 (£5%), R Supple 6-60 (10%).

FAVOURITES: 184-423 (43.5%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.

12.40 BOLTON PERCY NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m 

1.10 ARTHUR STEPHENSON NOVICE H'CAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m 4f 110yds 60F6-1 SPEARHEAD AGAIN (11) (D) (Len Jakeman) Mass V Williams 8 11 10 ...

1.45 STANLEY RACING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) 25,000 added 2m

HYPERION

BETTING: 3 Abatang, 100-30 Forestal, 7-2 Good Vibes, 5 Weish Mill, 6 Yubrake, 7 Secret Service 1995; Direct Route 5 11 2 A Magaine 11-8 fev (J Howerd Johnson) 5 rain 2.20 PETERHOUSE GROUP HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

2.50 TOTE WEST YORKSHIRE HURDLE (Grade 2) C4 

BETTENG: 4-5 Pridwell, 11-10 Watingoot 1996: Trangiot 9 11 O R Dunwoody 7-4 fav (J Fiz-Gergid) 7 ran FORMI GUIDE

The Nigel Twiston-Davies team has not made its usual flying start but MISTINGUETT can beet solitary opponent Pridwell, Parineps over the top when third to Potentate on her final outing at Chepstow, Mistinginguett had previously run her heart out trying to keep table on Malke A Stand in the Champion Hurdle Pridwell has been placed in a Champion and, after appearing not to less the trip in the Stayer's Hurdle, he won on his final start at Haydock over the best part of three male. Mistinguett may or may not come back to the best, and Pridwell is threely as passive of chucking a race away. He is defined in the come to have a start at the control of the control o one to back at short odds.

3.25 CHARLIE HALL CHASE (Grade 2) (CLASS A) C4 3221F- BARTON BANK (189) (CD) (SF) (Mrs J Mould) D Nicholson 11 Ti 10 .....  4 PP4U-5 MASTER BOSTON (17) (C) (M K Oldham) R Woodhouse 9 TI 2...
Elach and white (Pahad), statest reversed, quantered cap
— 4 declared—
8ETTING: evens One Man, 11-10 Barton Beak, 18 Harmos Harvest, 33 Mag 1996: One Man 8 TI TO R Dunecody 6-TI Sar (G Richards) 4 ran

HERMES HARVEST may not be the most fiely wither of the four who face the starter, but he is the only concervable but. One Man broke a blood vessel on his final start last season, and while his other disappointments have been vanously attributed to lack of starning and/for dislike of Cheltenham, neither theory is convincing. Very few horses go from traveling sweetly to being out on their feet in a matter of strides, and we have seen One Man do that three times, including when he won the King George last season. Whatever the reason for this, it might be riskly to back such a horse at a short price. Benne Benk's supporters were cheered by his runs at the Cheltenham and Antree Festivals last season. But the race he won at Antree was uncompetitive, and while his Gold Cup second was a creditable effort, there were valid excuses for rivels who disappointers that Barton Bank is back to his very best, and we should not overlook that he fet last time out. Harmes Harvest has a sporting chance of beating both these previous witners of the Charle Hall.

Selection: HERMES HARVEST FORM GUIDE

4.00 WENSLEYDALE HURDLE (Grade 2) (CLASS A) C4 

Red and white stripes, white steems, and spots, red cap -7 declared -

-7 declared BETTING: 2 Amilga, 3 Monarch's Persuit, 4 Stomed Insoculeta, 5 Lorpek Lagend, 10 Lord Discord,
Lovilicas, 20 Top Shelf
1998: Belistor 3 10 12 B Fenton 4-1 (G Baking) 12 nm
FORM GUIDE
It is hard know how good STONED IMACULATE might be over timber, but her latest
two-mile success on the Flat from subsequent winner, Spowicz, subgests that there may
be better to come. Amilga has started odds-on to win all three of her starts over hucless. She may not have besten much, but Martin Ploes filly is gaining confidence and her
experience should stand her in good stead. The middle of her three runs was at Worcester and the placed horses have both won since.
Selection: STONED MACULATE

#### 1.20: SONG OF THE SWORD is unbeaten over hurdles. This 35,000guinea purchase from the Michael

PUNTERS' GUIDE

Stoute stable faces a tougher task after a win at Chepstow followed by two successes at Hereford, but he can rise to the task. The danger is Ginger Fox, who cost 75,000 guineas from Henry Cecil's yard. 

ASCOT

1.55: BERTONE is burdened with top weight but can prove classier than today's rivals. He won easily on his reappearance at Wetherby last mouth. Irish Stamp is expected by his connections to put in a bold bid to take this prize. But a bigger challenge is likely to come from incheailloch, who loves this fast ground.

2.30: CELIBATE has been raised 3lb for winning narrowly at Kempton on his seasonal debut, but is the type who only does just enough to get his head in front where it matters. Land Afar has a major chance in this event but the selection should have more pace close home.

#### WETHERBY

2.50: PRIDWELL is not the most reliable of animals and, in a truly-run race would probably struggle to stay this trip. However, he has a sound turn of foot if he consents to use it and his sole rival, Mistinguett, a game front-runner, may not be able to get him off the bridle.

3.25: ONE MAN, who again had his stamina limitations exposed in the Cheltenham Gold Cup back in the spring, is essentially an autumn borse and, back on this, one of his happiest hunting grounds, will be hard to beat. Barton Bank will find it hard to contain his old rival at level weights over this terrain while Hermes Harvest - who jumped really well when winning at Market Rasen - and Master Boston look out of their depth.

#### HYPERION'S TV TIPS

in her three starts over hurdles so far, can extend her winning sequence. Course and distance winner Monarch's Pursuit is another decent prospect.

#### NEWMARKET

2.40: Desert Beauty attempts to enhance her potential value as a broadmare by running in this Listed race. But she may well be thwarted by SAMARA. This filly has been performing well in Group company and found 1m1f too far at Longchamp last time.

3.10: DASHING CHIEF was confidently ridden when overturning a 1-3 shot over this distance at Pontefract last time and can improve enough to take this stamina test for juveniles. Sinon looks the better of the trio being saddled by Mark Johnston,

#### 

3.45: Two 33-1 shots have won this in the past five years. Desert Track is at short odds but is a harsh 9lb higher in the weights for a Redcar victory two weeks ago. Prince Of Denial, up 5lb for his Newbury win. has a chance but would prefer softer ground. Silk St John can be excused a disappointing run on this track last time out because he raced on the slowest ground, MYRTLE QUEST is a lightly raced five-yearold who won easily on fast going at Kempton before failing to handle Ascot's mud three weeks ago. Kayvee has a time chance if low numbers have an advantage.

4.15: Another very tricky affair. YOUDONTSAY is at long odds but goes well when fresh and would go well if recapturing the form of his Lingüeld win back in May. Safio was badly drawn last time and is a 4.00: AMITGE, highly impressive major player here.

#### UNITED HOUSE CONSTRUCTION H'CAP CHASE - 10-YEAR-TALE finner's place in betting: 0 3 1 0 0 1 1/t 2 1 12-1 6-1 100-30 6-1 11-2 2-1 9-4 11-4 3-1 evens roffit or loss to £1 stake: Favourites +£495. Second Favourites -£625 centage of winners placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in last race: 10% ortest-priced winner: Storm Alert evens (1996) ongest-priced winner: Long Engagement 12-1 (1987) Top trainers: A Turner (3) - Storm Alert (1993 & 1994) & Katabetic (1992) D Nicholson (2) - Long Engagement (1997) & Storm Alert (1996) Top Jockey: S McNell (3) - Katabatic (1992) & Storm Alert (1993 & 1994)

#### FIRST SHOW

In the 3.45 at Newmarket with Ladbrokes - Coral go Coral offer 6-1 Desert Track - 16-1. Jibereen is 16-1 with the Tote go 4-1, while Ladbrokes go 28-1 Silk St John -William Hill offer just 14-1.

In the 4.15, Swift is 40-1 with In the 4.13, Swifft is 40-1 with

Coral – Ladbrokes go 14-1

while Scissor Ridge is 28-1

The Total bett on the 2.30 at Ascot: 7-2 Celbas, 9-2 Down The Fel, Indian Jockey, 5-1

Big Matt, Land Afar, 11-2 Storm Alert, 12-1

Lectard, 14-1 Körest.

Coral - Ladbrokes go 10-1. The Tote bet on the 1.55 at Ascot: 9.2 inch-calloch, Samlee, 5-1 Bertone, Father Sky, Stormtracker, 13-2 Beronet, frish Stamp, 14-1 God Speed You, 25-1 Hillwalk.

Newm	arke	:t —	3.45			Newmarket — 4.15					
Horse	C	Н	L		Hors	<u> </u>	C	_ #	L	<u>T</u>	
Desert Track	6-1	9-2	5-1	4-1	See	,	8-1	8-1	8-1	7-1	
Prince Of Denial	9-1	10-1	<u>9-1</u>	10-1	Unde	TOVER Agen	t 12-1	12-1	12-1	12-1	
For Your Byes Only	14-1	<u>11-1</u>	12-1	12-1	—	mer Golf Tim		71-1	12-1	101	
Jay-Own-Two	14-1	14-1	2-1_	14-1	i 1—	Minor	12-1	12-1	14-1	21	
Consort	16-1	14-1	121	1 <u>6-1</u>	—				14-1		
kish Light	16-1	14 <u>-1</u>	21	14-7		t Of Glass	14-1	14-1		141	
Grand Musica	<b>16-1</b>	1 <u>8-1</u>	20-1	<u>18-1</u>	<u>  248</u>		14-1	12-1	101	14-1	
Philippar	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1	<u>Jour</u>		16-1	14-1_	10-7	12-1	
Pomons	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1	Victo	ry Teem	16-1	14-1	16-1	14-1	
Stanton Harcourt	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1	Anto	niza Melboy	16-1	14-1	20-1	<u>18-1</u>	
Sallen	16-1	20-1	22-1	20-1	Braw	<u>eheart</u>	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1	
Sharp Rebut	20-1	20-1	22-1	25-1	100	ATTRACT.	20-1	14-1	16-1	20-1	
Karvee	<u>20-1</u>	<u>22-1</u>	<u> 25-1</u>	<u> 25-1</u>	Knot	فعندموواث	14-1	14-1	20-1	14-1	
Mydie Crest	<u>25-1</u>	16-1	20-1	<u>81</u>	Madi	Claice	20-1	20-1	14-1	20-1	
Brillant Red	<u>25-1</u>	28-1	25- <u>1</u>	25-1	—	it Wind	14-1	20-1	20-1	20-1	
<u>High</u> abom	251	<u>28-1</u>	28-1	25-1		Dencer	20-1	20-1	22-1	20-1	
Silk St John	<u> 20-1</u>	14-1	29-1	<u>8-1</u>	American American		25-1			18-1	
Boolum	<u> 25-1</u>	33-1	20-1	25-1				<u>25-1</u>	<u>25-1</u>		
Cheut	<u>33-1</u>	28-1	28-1	<u> 33-1</u>	Oxbe		20-1	<u>25-1</u>	25-1	25-1	
Pestelan Feyra	<u>33-1</u>	33-1	33-1	<u>33-1</u>	—	or Ridge	<u>18-1</u>	<u> 20-1</u>	28-1	20 1	
Prince Of India	33-1 25-1	28-1	28-1_	33-1	AME .		20-1	<u>25-1</u>	28-1	<u> 351</u>	
<u>Begonst</u>	33-1	40-1 20-1	40-1 40-1	33-1	Garba	<u>Line</u>	35-1	<u>25-1</u>	<u> 22-1</u>	<b>33</b> -1	
Hurtleherry	33-1 33-1	40-1	40-1 40-1	33-1 40-1	Octho	Rice .	33-1	<u>34</u>	<u>20-1</u>	33-1	
Pollah Rihython Raiksbow Raiks	40-1		40-1		West	The Best	33-1	20-1	25-1	25-1	
Commone Communi	33-1	40-1 40-1	40-1	40-1	Youd	Orboy	33-1	33-1	28-1	35-1	
Arthi Dane	33-7	40-1	50-1	33-1 33-1	Polar	Eclipse	33-1	40-1	40-1	33-1	
Welton Arsenal	50-1	65-1	33-1	40-1	Switz		40-1	33-1	14-1	25-1	
Engineey a quart					500	Each way a quarter the colds, places 1, 2, 3, 4					
C - Coral H - William						C-Coral H-William Hill L-Lachroles T-Total					
					L	Ma, 11 - 772	in rii, L	~ 1255	765 1 -	- 128	

#### NEWMARKET

1.00 Pontoon 1.30 Ringleader 2.05 Dark Mile 2.40 Samara (nb)

3.10 Dashing Chief 3.45 MYRTLE QUEST (nap)

GOING: Good to Firm, STALLS: Far side, DRAW ADVANTAGE: North GOING: Good to Firm. STALLS: Fir side. DHAW ADVANTAGE: Note:

Right-hand course with 1m 2f straight.

Course is south-west of town on A1304, Bus, ink from Cambridge and Newmarkst stations. ADMISSION: Club 155, Tattersale 110, Silver Ring 12, CAR PARK: Free.

LEADING TRAINERS: H Coeff 45 wins from 50 runners (20.7%), J Goeden 31-203 (5.5%), B Hills 28-222 (10.7%), R Hamnon 23-352 (6.5%), M Stoote 22-217 (10.7%), R Hamnon 23-352 (6.5%), M Stoote 22-217 (10.7%), R Halls 28-202 (12.5%), J Hold 24-233 (2.2%), K Falion 18-143 (12.5%), FAVOURITES: 226-692 (32.7%), BLIDKERED PIRST TIME: None.

1.00 EBF BALATON LODGE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) 

NGK SPARK PLUGS SELLING STAKES (CLASS E) 1.30 NGK SPANA 2YO 1m ...N Day 12 ...S Sanders 3 ...A Mackey 6 ney 8 11 \_\_Martin Dwyer 18. \_M Wighen 9 \_d Foctsne 11 J Codes 20

... M HETE 13

BETTING: 5 Bridge, 11-2 Stee Desert 8 August Trying, 7 Bell Desce, 8 Mystagogue, 9 Primary Colours, 10 Blue 20ts, Rhogiseles, 12 Up The Walf, 14 Carouse, Cutting Annaheta, 20 others 1986. Alicionado 2 8 Ti G Duffield 10-1 (R Johnson Houghton) drewn (19) 21 ran 2.05 EQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS STAKES (CLASS C) £8,000 added 6f

ES,000 added 6f

1 60290 DISTINCTIVE DREAM (8) (D) (KT horry) K horry 3 9 5 K Fellon 5
2 24200 BEPLE SIF (USA) (34) (SIP) (Ass Mary Hoborney) D French Devis 3 9 5 K Fellon 5
3 2500 LUCANNAN BEACH (8) (Shaha Gobby 128 B Gubby 3 9 5 R Perham 1
3 23-00 SALTY JACK (149 (D) (Salts OI The Earth Racry) V Soans 3 9 5 R Perham 1
5 2700 ALMAYS ON MY MAND (49) (D) (Mascatis Such) P Helen 3 9 3 S Sanders 5
2 2539 DARK MELE (USA) (17) (D) (Shaka Mohemmed) J Gosden 3 9 3 R Hills 2
2 3 SHADDER (14) (D) (Ai K Al Jefsh) W Hagges 2 8 8 R Hills 2
3 SHADDER (14) (D) (Ai K Al Jefsh) W Hagges 2 8 8 R Hills 2
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5 SHADDER (15) (D) (Ai K Al Jefsh) W Hagges 2 8 R HILLS 2
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lack, 35 Lucasian Beach 1936 Sangeon (USA) 3 9 8 L Dettori 8-1 (5 bin Surcor) drawn (2) 8 rati 2.40 BEN MARSHALL STAKES (Listed) (CLASS A) C4

2200 LAW COMMESSION (14) (C) (Flaymond Toch) D Beauth 7 8 12 S Drowne 1 111

14634 BALALABKA (27) (C) (Flaymond Toch) D Beauth 7 8 12 S Drowne 1 111

14634 BALALABKA (27) (C) (Flattra Spring State Ltd) L Cyrrent 4 8 10 Sect. with 5 pols, black stems, what cap Back with 5 pols, black stems, what cap K Falson 4 119

14635 SAMARA (27) (C) (Palested Forms State Ltd) J Durlop 4 8 10 K Falson 4 119

Mostlyine testen, gold cap Mostly (14) (C) (D) (Lord Verislood) M Stocks 3 8 5 R Hills 5 108

1221 DESERT (BEALTY (14) (C) (Lord Verislood) M Stocks 3 8 5 M Hills 5 38

1221 DESERT (BEALTY (14) (C)) (Lord Verislood) M Stocks 3 8 5 M Hills 5 38

1222 DESERT (BEALTY (14) (22) (1) (Chandley Plan, Stock) J Farefrence 3 8 5 M Hills 5 38

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3.10 NGK SPARK PLUGS ZETLAND STAKES (Listed) C4 

SECT INCE 2 Short, 4 Night Nuls, \$2.50 Highermood, 5 Daning Cares, 10 Time Gene Gene, (agger happy, 16 Kinn Brave
1996: Silver Pitriesch 2 8 11 Pat Editory 8-2 (J Dunlop) drawn (8) 10 ran
1996: Silver Pitriesch 2 8 11 Pat Editory 8-2 (J Dunlop) drawn (8) 10 ran
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1996: Silver Pitriesch 2 11 Pat Editory 8-2 (Silver 1996)
1996: Silver P ose in September and certain to be seen to greater advantage over this trip. New you over this trip at Pontainect.

Selection: SINON

3.45 LADBROKE AUTUMN HANDICAP (CLASS C) C4 

1986: Safan 7 8 13 N Day 33-1 (D Morris) drewn (7) 25 ran
FORMI GRUIDS
DESERT TRACK, an in-form and progressive three-year-old, is one to have on your side
and, despite plenty of opposition, will take the bearing in less bid for the hat-rick. John
Goeden's runner, unplaced on his eingle start at two, was a remote third at Newcestle in
June on his return but narrowly justified favouritism on the July Course her next time and,
after a 91-day absence, defied 10st in a Redcar handicap. A 9th hite might not stop him
here. Selfan, who landed this a year ago off a 3th lower mark, returned to form at Redcer in August and ran fourth to Prince Of Deniel at Newbury. However, Selfan best only
one home in the 30-minor race wor by Gulf Shaadi over course and distance a fortright
back when For Your Eyes Only was beaten only half a length in seccond. Tim Easterby's runner finished four lengths clear of the third that day and should again have a say
in the firish. So, too, should Prince Of Deniel, who won over a mile and a furiong at Newbury a week ago – Welton Arsettel and Consort 1th and 12th of 15. Consort was beatan a next and hatte is singth by Jay-Owe-Tow over course and distance two weeks ago
– Grand Musicia and Silfs St. John behind – and a 6th pull gives him good prospects of
turning that form around with Richard Whitaker's nurser Consort was a three-length second of 22 to Gulf Shead at Ascot before that with Brilliant Red and For Your Eyes Only
sorth and minth. Pomorar's fourth of 25 to Kennest at Ascot with Irien Light and Gusenns
Consul in arreass puts her in the picture.

Selection: DESERT TRACK 4.15 BURROUGH GREEN HANDICAP (CLASS D) C4

Safio was making it tour wins in a row when scoring at Doncaster in September, following with a length third of 19 to Sotar Storm at Ayr and he looks set for another bold show after its three-length fifth of 29 behind Desert Beauty over course and detaince a fortught ago. However, it may pay to sete with DUMMER GOLF TREE, who has below expectations when favourite and severith of 16 to Mystors Missiel at Sandown fast time but had some good form before that. Lord Huntghadons charge went in at Kempton in August - Knobbleanesza 11th of 14 - and ran Hymer's Reacal to a nack in a faeld of 22 at York next time. Victory Team got home by helf a length from Zers at Newbury eight days ago with Scissor Ridge a four-length.

Selection: DUMMER GOLF TIME

#### Dettori's offences add up

Frankie Dettori was yesterday is flying to Australia to ride The referred to the Jockey Club disciplinary committee under the "totting-up" procedure. He earned a trip to Portman Square after being found guilty of careless riding on Baajil at Newmarket. The Italian has been sum-

moned because the latest transgression takes him over the threshold for the referral system introduced by the Jockey Club last year. If the committee finds him guilty he will receive a suspension for yesterday's offence plus a minimum ban of 14 days for the accumulation of offences - part of which may be

deferred for up to six months. Dettori was not intending to ride again in Britain this year but a long ban could still rule him out of races abroad, such as the Japan Cup on 23 November or the Hong Kong International meeting on 14 December.

Dettori is set for a busy period over the next 10 days as he

by yesterday. Wyer was out for four months last season after a fail at Aintrec. THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 LIVE COMMENTARIES RESELTS 971 981 972 982 973 983 974 984 <u>NEWMARKET</u> WETHERBY KELSO WOLVERHAMPTON (E) 975 985 ALL COURSES RESULTS 0891 261 970

Queen's Arabian Story in the Melbourne Cup on Tuesday,

before partnering Singspiel in

the Breeders' Cup Turf in Hol-

least three weeks on the side-

lines after sustaining a sus-

pected broken left wrist when Russian Rascal fell at Wether-

lywood next Saturday. Lorcan Wyer is facing at





THE IMPEDENDENT



### Paddle power rules at Llangollen

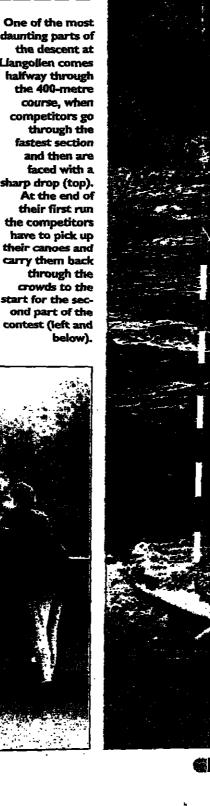
While tennis has Wimbledon and cricket has Lord's, for canoeing enthusiasts the north Wales town of Llangollen is the only place to be in October. The Llangollen Canoe Festival on the River Dee takes place over three days: the British open championships occupy the first two days and are followed by the inter-regional individual event.

The event draws a sizeable and knowledgeable crowd, with the action taking place over a 400-metre course through the centre of the town. Three types of canoe are used: the kayak (of Eskimo origin), the Canadian singles, and the Canadian doubles, which are of American Indian origin.

Fach run takes about three minutes, presuming that you do

Each run takes about three minutes, presuming that you do not capsize in the process and have to be rescued from the raging river. Competitors make two runs, with the times from both added together.

**PHOTOGRAPHS** BY DAVID ASHDOWN daunting parts of the descent at Liangollen comes halfway through the 400-metre course, when competitors go through the fastest section and then are faced with a sharp drop (top). At the end of their first run the competitors have to pick up their canoes and carry them back through the crowds to the start for the sec-







of having to the sale

Fill Char California !

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Thave blown ميس الم in their پېښې Justing -- - 3 -- -Pomppracia sed for a recognition rd collisie: 27 750 gubt to At .... Heineke : 3 to the Care. and set ANSER's FEE. ekend Day Jens aks ahead :3 :== ekends regay -- --DE STREET

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## Scarlets pray on a classy Kiwi and a loyal Moon

Llanelli have risen from near extinction to the wink of having to decide between a European quarter-final place or the chance of playing the best team in the world. As Tim Glover discovers, a New Zealander and a Englishman are largely to thank for this revival.

f Frano Botica needs a refresher in half-back play, a word with the wife will suffice. Like most women from the Land of the Long White Cloud, Tracey Botica, whose brother was a New Zealand provincial scrum-half, is a world authority on the game.

"She is more like Franc's coach than wife," Rupert Moon, the Llanelli scrum-half, said. "She's so knowledgeable it's frightening. I always call her Mrs Botica. That's how much respect I have for her."

At the age of 34, Botica, an All Black more than 10 years ago, is domiciled in Pembrey, an attractive coastal village near Llanelli, with his wife and three children.

In a controversial deal, Botica, who had a fabulous career with Wigan, was signed for £200,000 by Llanelli from Castleford via Orrell. Simultaneously the Scarlets found themselves severely in the red and but for the sale of Stradey Park to the Welsh Rugby Union for £1.25m earlier this year, the club would probably have become the most celebrated casualty of the shambolic move to professionalism.

We remained loyal," Moon id. "We have not run off to the hills. The players sat down and agreed to get on with it. It would have been difficult if we were thinking about whether we'd be paid at the end of the month. We've blocked it all out and developed a great team spirit. We had to."

In this respect, Botica has d a key role. "He's our shining light," Moon said. "We needed somebody who had experience of professionalism. None of us knew exactly what was required and he's been there, done it and has the trophies to prove it. He is the consummate professional and there is a human side to him that you don't always expect from a Kiwi. You don't see Sean Fazpatrick enjoying a night out or Jonah Lomu relaxing but

They have blown hot and

two meetings, now Brive

poised for a shuddering

attempt to win through

the Heineken Cup play-

offs to the quarter-final

away at Wasps next

looks ahead to the

programme.

Pontypridd III.

weekend. David Llewellyn

weekend's rugby union

While English rugby introduces

the 10-minute sin bin for offside

and preventing release of the

ball Europe stages Brive-

third collision as they

cold in their previous

and Pontypridd are





Scarlets' lever: Rupert Moon (left) and Frano Botica will be looking to inspire Llanelli to a victory over Cardiff in the Heineken Cup this afternoon

Frano's one of the boys. It's nice

Moon, who won 17 caps for Wales between 1993-95, had his partnership with Botica interrupted this season when the New Zealander tore a bicep whilst making a tackle against Treviso. With the fly-half factory, which produced Barry John, Phil Bennett and Jonathan Davies, on short time, Botica was recruited as a playmaker and goal-kicker but the 22-year-old understudy, Craig Warlow, has impressed sufficiently to present the selectors with a conundrum.

Warlow, who scored 20 points in Llanelli's 25-22 victory over Swansea last Saturday.

After two pool matches

which left the sides separated

by a point - the first match was

won by Brive 32-31, the second

was a 29-29 draw - today's

decider has a great deal more

Pontypridd stayed overnight

near Limoges, famous for its

porcelain; but that is not as

fragile as are relations between

the two clubs after the mass

brawl on the pitch, the bar-

room brawl off it and subse-

quent banning of three Ponty

players from setting foot in the

Correze region until they have

answered various charges

brought against them for their

alleged involvement in the late

night fracas in Le Bar Toulzac.

without the banned Phil John,

Andre Barnard and Dale

While Pontypridd will be

hanging on it.

will play stand-off against Cardiff today in the Heineken European Cup quarter-final play-off, with Botica at inside centre. "I was happy to play wherever, it doesn't bother me," Botica said.

"Frano's been very keen to

Botica, who featured in the

inaugural World Cup, won by the All Blacks in 1987, will play for Croatia in the qualifying Italy next May. He qualifies because his grandfather was a Croat and it also helps that the

recent victory over Russia. expires at the end of the searound and chopping and chang-

hours and their schedule will

around midnight tonight.

see them arriving in Wales at

hours the game will reach crit-

ical mass and the fall-out will

not be confined to those on the

pitch. The very game of rugby

will be judged by events at the

Neil Jenkins, was a model of

diplomacy when he said, prior to leaving for France: "We've

enjoyed two awesome matches

with Brive and only one point

separates us from them so in no

way are we intimidated."

The Pontypridd captain,

Parc Municipal des Sports.

But in those crucial three

Llanelli were defeated 36-26 by Cardiff in the semi-finals of the Welsh Cup last April. "It's a painful memory," Moon said, "and we bear grudges.".

Should the Scarlets gain revenge today, their quarter-final is at Bath fire week's time - on the day they have a 25th anniversary rematch against the All Blacks at Stradey. It is not

just Lianelli who bear grudges.
"The only reason New Zealand are coming to town is to put the record straight," Moon said. The All Blacks specifically asked for the fixture and will play no other club side on their tour. The match is all ticket and, as in 1972, Stradey

If Llanelli are successful today they will need the wisdom of Solomon to solve next Saturday's dilemma: do they pull

a junior side or mix and match against Bath and the All

"Whatever we do we will probably get fined again," said

For their part in an ill-tempered affair in Pau, Llanelli were fined £20,000, half of which was suspended but they have yet to pay a penny. "As far as we're concerned the fine has no legal basis," the spokesman added.

Meanwhile, Moon's love affair with the game in Wales shows no signs of waning. The former captain of England students - he was born in Birmingham, played for Walsall and lives in Pontypridd - has already played 10 games this season. "I'm not stressed out wondering if this is my last opportunity to achieve something. I'm lucky to given me so many memories. Some people think I'm playing better now than when I was play ing international rugby."

Gareth Jenkins, the coach, has advised the 28-year-old Moon to adopt a cooler, calmer approach. "I suppose it's about time. I have been playing from the age of five and I have always had a frantic nature."

A regular contributor to to start work on his own sports for tonight's Classic Cola Na-Stars. "One day I'll get a proper job," he said.

Rupert H St JB Moon has mastered the National Anthem but has been thwarted in his ambition of learning the Welsh lot but the spoken word is the hardest part," he said. "A Brummie trying to speak Welsh? What hope."

HOCKEY

#### **England warm** up against President's XI

England, who arrived in Cairo in the early hours of yesterday. play the President's XI tomorrow in a warm-up game before they start their series of four Tests against Egypt on Monday.

Meanwhile, at Milton Keynes, England's women play South Korea in the second Test with two changes to the squad which won on Thursday. Mandy Davies and Lucy Youngs play in place of Sarah Blanks and Lucy Culliford.

With the Premier League sides not in action because of the international trip, the men's domestic scene centres on the meeting of the leaders in Division One, Surbiton, against numers-up Havant at Surbiton this afternoon in the League and in the third round of the

Cup in Hampshire tomorrow. With both teams on maximum points, it is unfortunate that Surbiton will be without South African Gregg Nichol, their leading goal-scorer who has returned home for a six-Test series against Poland.

Surbiton's squad is boosted by the return of forwards Mark Owen (Barbados) and Karl Stagno (Gibraltar). Havant's young side of mostly home-grown play-

ers should be unchanged. Chelmsford will be missing their two South Africans, Mike Cullen and Justin King, on international duty which will make their task much harder away to Lowes and the Cup game in Bristol against Robinsons. They will benefit from the return of Australian Pat Oxley, who missed the

BASKETBALL

#### McGee must be on guard

Renault Leicester Riders' coach, Bob Donewald, has put series for HTV. The Moon and tional Cup tie with Newcastle Eagles, and hopes his players will do the same to the former Granby Halls crowd-pleaser Leon McGec.

The 26-year-old McGee, from Battle Creek, Michigan, language. "I can understand a spent much of last season at war with Donewald, So. despite leading Leicester's scorers with 22 points a game, there was little surprise when McGee moved on during the summer.

Donewald, engaging in one of his familiar psychological skirmishes, is playing up McGee's qualities at the expense of his own backcourt men.

Donewald said of McGee; "I son against Newcastle for : hope he plays well but we win. He's not as wound up as some people make him out to be. He's a smart man.

"With Rob Phelps alongside him. I think Newcastle's guards are better than ours."

Leicester won 94-84 at Newcastle in the Budweiser League in their second game of the season, but under new coach Craig Kyran Bracken is on the Lynch the Eagles have won four of their last five matches.

Lynch said: "Generally we are playing as a team now and not like a collection of individuals". That could be a key factor tonight if McGee decides Tuesday along with fellow Eng- to prove a point to his former coach.

Richard Taylor

and refreshing to discover that he's not another cog in the All Black machine. Generally they give the impression that it's a job which they don't particularly

offer support and he's developed an excellent relationship with the younger players," Moon said. "He never stops learning, so it's become a twoway process. He has helped Craig with aspects of distribution and reading of the game and Craig has helped Frano in his line-kicking. Craig's confidence is beginning to emerge and he has a lot to offer. He's lightly built but he puts the tackles in. He's not afraid to put his head on the line when required and he's a phenomenal goal

McIntosh - their appeal to

have the trio allowed into the

region was rejected earlier this

week - Brive will have the ser-

vices of flanker Lionel Mallier,

the man sent off in the first

to focus on the rugby side of

things and their full-back,

Christophe Lamaison, said last

night: "We are determined to

erase the all the recent bad his-

tory, the brawling on and off the

pitch and the war of words. To

do that we intend putting on the

sort of performance that will

bit. Limoges is outside the

Correze region and they intend

spending as little time as

possible in Brive. They reckon

on turning around in three

Pontypridd are doing their

make the final point for us."

The French club are trying

clash along with McIntosh.

rounds against Denmark and coach is a friend of his. Apparently there are about 30,000 Croats in New Zealand and at least six of them are playing for Croatia, which explains their

First though, Botica would like to win something with Llanelli. His two-year contract son. "I'd like to stay." he said. "I've had enough of travelling ing countries. This is a lovely part of the world and before returning to New Zealand it would be nice to finish my career here, I don't know what

Park will be choc-a-bloc.

Jenkins smooths way as Pontypridd prepare to enter Brive's den

No one expects us to win, which is why we can go out there and just go for broke. "Our form has not been up to the usual standard since we last played in Brive, but I feel sorry for the team playing

against us when we finally do click again." Pontypridd flew out of Cardiff last night without their iniured backs Kevin Morgan and David Manley, while the fitness of the centre Steele Lewis, wing Gareth Wyatt and lock

Stuart Roy is serious enough to

convince the coach, Dennis

However, the Lion then John, that he must delay went on to warn: "We don't selection until today. Things do not look quite as want any trouble, but we will not back down. If they come out tough for Leicester. The Tigers to intimidate us then we are take on Glasgow at home, the going to stick up for ourselves.

"There is no pressure on us. of this play-off is a quarterfinal tie at Pau on Sunday week. Leicester have decided to run an experiment up front against the Scots, Graham Rowntree switches from loose to tight-head, to see if he can be used as a future stand-in for Darren Garforth. Perry Fresh-

water comes in at loose-head. Austin Healey remains on the right wing and the Fijian genius, Wasaile Serevi, at scrum-half. That experiment, begun last week with mixed success, should prove tougher this week. Glasgow have James Craig back on the left wing and he is a very rapid runner, the spritely Healey will need overdrive to catch him.

In the Allied Dunbar Premiership, Bath could have dubious reward for the winners Nathan Thomas restored to

the back row for the visit of Richmond, Thomas was sent off in the first match of the seastamping on Tim Stimpson. The Premiership leaders, Newcastle, have named the Lions wing John Bentley on the bench for the third successive weekend, but he could play against London Irish at Sunbury because of fitness doubts surrounding Jim Naylor and Stuart Legg.

bench for Saracens against Bristol at Vicarage Road to- : morrow and the England scrum-half is expected to start : the match against Cambridge University at Grange Road on land squad member, flanker Richard Hill.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"He tried to take me off but blont do it well enough as he only broke his car. If you're capable for wing with that weight on your bruiders, then good for you, but little not how I would play it myself." Jacques Villerusses on self Jacques Villenueve on Michael Schumacher's ettempts to dany him the Formula One world championship in Spain. work is an injuries by it spent.

I did nothing wrong. There have been happier days in my
life, but this is racing. You have good days and bad days - this is one of the bad ones. Michael Schumacher.

There will be a lot of cross There will be a lot of cross-es, Ray Houghton will run and run and run, and Tony Cas-camo will be a danger – even when he's dead he'll be picking the right moment and scoring from his grave." Georges from his grave." Georges Leekens, the Belgium coach, assessing the Republic of Ire-land tootball learn.

land football team.

In needed to fee! I had the support of the team, which I left I had needed to think we had a reasonable chance of success in the West Indies – and I do." Michael West Indies – and I do." Michael Athertan on his decision to stay on as England cricket captain.

SPORT ON THE INTERNET

### How a rabbi trained for New York Marathon by performing circumcisions

What are 173 male dentists doing tomorrow morning at 10.30 in New York? They are all taking part in the New York Marathon, now in its 28th year.

This is one of the many pieces of information available from the official web site for the New York Marathon. The site is full of statistics on the runners, breaking down all the 30,463 entrants by age (most are between 30 and 39), by sex (21,627 men and 8,836 women), by state if American (8,854 from New York), or by country: the hest represented visitors are the French, with 2,261 competitors. In case you needed to know, six per cent of the runners are

The oldest is Sam Gadless at 90, who only took up marathon running five years ago. He will be joined in the race by his 55-year-old son and 25-year-old York on Saturdays to perform circum- bouncing dead cats. cisions as Jewish Law forbids driving on the Sabbath.

There are also 479 investment and stock brokers down to compete - a little main runners. light relaxation after a busy week. For-

tips, a list of all entrants including the

The other big city marathons, Boston timately the course does not go anywhere and London, are also represented on

**ADDRESSES** 

Official New York Marathon site: http://www.nyrrc.org/ Official Boston Marathon site: http://www.bostonmarathon.org/ 1997 Boston Marathon: http://www.runnersworld.com/boston/home.html A Celebration of 100th Boston Marathon: http://www.100th.com/ London Marathon: http://www.greenwich2000.com/sport/marathon.htm 1997 London Marathon: http://www.britannia.com/marathon/indnmthn.html Runner's Web Marathon Links: http://www.runnersweb.com/running/rw\_mar.html

There is also a rabbi, much of whose near Wall Street so the runners will not the web. The race in Boston on 15 April training consists of walking across New have to avoid suicidal stockbrokers or last year was the city's 100th marathon and their celebration site offers an over-The site includes a very detailed map all history of the race with a more of New York and the course, training detailed decade by decade breakdown, a 3-D movie of the course, a pace calculator, a real audio link to various interviews and a searchable database of all the 1996 runners.

The official website for the Boston Marathon enables you to print-off a race application form for the 1998 race and enter as long as you meet their rather stringent qualifying times.

Information on the London Marathon can be found on sites provided by Greenwich Council and Britannia Internet Magazine, which provides a history of the race. Pheidippides has a lot to answer

- Edward Abelson

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THE INDEPENDENT

## Britain must not rely on Wembley factor

Great Britain have made a habit of catching the kangaroos on the hop at Wembley, but Dove Hadfield fears that

history is unlikely to repeat itself in the first Test this afternoon.

Great Britain have ambushed Australia at Wembley in the opening stages of the contests between the two countries often enough for the surprise attack to become almost expected of them.

In the Test series' of 1990 and 1994, and the World Cup of 1995, the Australians were caught cold in the first internationals of their visits to these shores. If it happens again today, however, it will be the dawn raid that neither they, nor their opponents, saw coming.

The Great Britain coach Andy Goodway has consciously down played the importance of the Wembley result. He has been close enough on previous occasions to see that the dawn in the capital is generally a false

His objective in this series. he has declared, is to supervise an improvement in Britain's performances from first Test to last. If the traditional Wemblev turn-up comes at Old Trafford this year, then so be it.

Goodway has good reason to bedge his bets. Any objective assessment says that he does not truly have the players at his disposal to embarrass Australia.

With Gary Connolly available, with players such as Tony Smith, Shaun Edwards and Dennis Betts fit, it could be different. But, however Goodway perms his limited resources this afternoon, this year's com- around the fact that all three of bination does not look the stuff

of which victory laps are made. There are, a couple of factors, in Britain's favour. One is that the preparation, in terms of both time and manpower, has been the most generous that a British squad has ever enjoyed before a series at home.

The failure of our teams in the World Club Championship means that, with the exception of the fate addition of Jason Robinson, all Goodway's players have had an unbroken threeweek build-up for this match.

Nor have they been short of guidance, as they have had three coaches, a team manager and a technical director all pointing them in the direction of this match. It is the sort of luxury a Great Britain team has all too rarely known in the past, but even a ratio of three coaches per player could not create a convincing team if the

raw material is not there. Not that there is any good reason for Great Britain to below optimum strength, the their all correct in his first same is doubly true of Australia. match in charge.

These are not the Kangaroos, nor is this an Ashes series as long as the players under the banner of the Australian Rugby League are excluded.

On top of that John Lang is without players of the stature of Steve Renouf, Alan Langer and Bradley Clyde.

It has long been true that Australia have been capable of fielding a second and third team which could beat anyone else in the world, but by their own standards this is not a strong side.

The Rugby League's chief executive Maurice Lindsay, who has seen numerous tour parties come and go, managed to argue this week that this is "the best 22 players they have ever sent".

Lindsay is too shrewd a judge of a player to genuinely believe that. Indeed that assessment smacked of having alibis ready.

A more realistic appraisal is that Australia have just one indisputable great player in his prime in Laurie Daley, two more in Andrew Ettingshausen and Steve Walters who have been in that category but are now a shade past their best and any number of others who could eventually achieve that sort of ranking.

Great Britain have one man Andrew Farrell - who would be world class in any era - and another in Robinson who would be in any sensible world side.

For the rest of them, it is vital that Goodway gets the right men in the right jobs this afternoon and then gets the very best out of them.

The first key moment of the day will come at 1.15 when he has to name his side. He has at least one insoluble problem here, because there is no way his potential scrum halves have obvious Shortcoming

Then he must strive for the right balance in the back row. Paul Sculthorpe will be there, the experience of Chris Joynt gives him a strong case for inclusion and Mick Cassidy has to play as well, both for his tireless industry and for his ability to take over at hooker from James Lowes if needed. The running power of the likes of Adrian Morley and Simon Haughton can then be slipped into and out of the game as appropriate.

Then he merely has to get it right in the backs. Assuming that Paul Newlove and Anthony Sullivan will be one centre and wing, Goodway is left juggling the names of Robinson, Kris Radlinski and Alan Hunte for full-back and the other threequarter positions.

It adds up to a formidable series of equations to be solved. No wonder that Goodway is reluctant to stake the whole feel overawed today. If they are success of the series on getting



Jason Robinson in training this week. 'It does you good to play against people who are better than you. It humbles you, in a way' Photograph: David Ashdown

## Prodigal finds peace and new meaning in his play

Hallelujah, Jason Robinson's return to the fold is good news indeed for Great Britain as they face the mighty

Australians at Wembley today. Yet - but for a spiritual conversion the talented Wigan player may have been lost to the game here, he tells Dave Hadfield.

If there is more rejoicing over the return of the prodigal than over any of the rest of the family, then it is no wonder that the game in Britain has been barbecuing the fatted calf for Jason Robinson this week.

The biblical resonances are entirely apt. It is a double conversion - on the road to Sydney, rather than to Damascus - that has made Robinson available to play against Australia at Wembley today.

When the battle was on for the soul of the game in April 1995, Robinson was one of that élite group of British players who were offered their pieces of silver. He took them and, because they were from the Australian Rugby League that was – and is – fighting for its existence against Super League in Britain and Australia, he has occupied a sort of limbo ever since, able to play out his time with Wigan but barred from representing his country unless the ARL allowed him to

"It was a decision just based on the money," he admits candidly. "Rugby league players weren't very well paid then and it was like winning the Lottery. There was also a feeling that, if you didn't hurry up and sign for one of them, they would join up again and you would miss out.

"I was also a bit surprised, to be honest with you, because I thought at the time that I was one of the top players in England, and I thought that more could have been done to keep me here."

So, out of a mixture of opportunism and wounded Fil always give my best in every pride, he signed to go to Australia when his Wigan contract expired this year and set out with a vengeance to enjoy his

"I was young and it got to me. That's why I disagree with anyone who thinks that winning the Lottery won't affect them. Suddenly, you could have anything you wanted and I abused it - I took advantage."

Robinson had not been on starvation wages before, but he now seemed to lose all sense of proportion. He lorded it in a convertible that was flash even by the new "if you've got it, flaunt it" standards at his level of the game. He drank with a crowd with more experience and capacity, got out of his depth and into his share of trouble.

"I got drunk to forget about the problems in my life, but when I looked at myself. I didn't like what the money had done to me."

He was ready for a new direction and found it, indirectly,

through one of his Wigan teammates who showed no interest in the bectic social life that went with being a well-rewarded rughy league star - Va'aiga

"Inga [Tirigamala] was in the team and he made me question things. He was such a big. happy fellow. He seemed so much at peace - that was something I'd never had and it got me thinking a bit." Robinson felt that his life

was getting so badly out of control that he went to live with a Christian group for two months. He was reconciled with his pregnant girlfriend, who also rediscovered her religion, and they are now married with two children.

When Robinson talks of being saved, he does not mean it as a mere form of words. The way he describes it, he was in a downward spiral that would have destroyed him.

"I haven't drunk for two and a half years now. I just wouldn't go into a pub and I feel the benefit of it. There are always people saying, 'Come on', but gradually they come to respect vour decision.

"It was a difficult time spiritually for me at Bath, because it was a new group of people and I had to go through the same thing all over again when they expected me to be part of the social life. Slowly but steadily, they came to accept it."

Robinson might be bornagain, but not as a wholly unworldly individual. He enjoyed his time at Bath, the kudos of keeping Jon Sleightholme out of the side and the earning

"I took a bit of criticism, but I kept out the current England winger and, until the heavy grounds came, I was scoring tries regularly. Just imagine what I would do if I knew the rules. "It gave me some finance

and it showed me that I could do something else apart from rugby league if I wanted to in the future. I certainly wouldn't rule that out." But the way he treats his

rugby, of either code, now is "as a job". "Don't get me wrong game I play, but whereas everything used to revolve around it, there are now more important things in my life, like God and my family."

The altered status of rugby in his life is not apparent to Wigan supporters, however. During a troubled season for the club, Robinson - especially

after a mid-season switch to full-back - was a constant source of reassurance. The extra attacking options saw him produce perhaps the best rugby of his career. He was unflappable on the field and there was a new approachability about a previously bristly

young man off it. There was only one thing wrong. He no longer wanted telling to Australia: "I had realised" that there were more important things than money. I was happy here with my family, happy at my church. I had wanted to go. but that was before I was saved."

The struggle to save him from the consequences of the contract he signed in 1995 has been protracted. The ARL was understandably reluctant to give up one of its most significant captures, but this week Wigan finally managed to negotiate his release, thus freeing him, just in time, to join Great Britain's preparation for today's series-opening Test.

"A week ago, I didn't expe to be able to play in any of the games, so I hadn't thought much about it. Now I'm looking forward to it, because it's going to be a challenge - and at the top level in rugby league you don't always get that.

"It does you good to play against people who are better than you. It humbles you, in a way. But they are only human and New Zealand showed that teams like that can be beaten, if everyone gives 110 per cent."

Such is Robinson's standing that no one could seriously complain at him being drafted in, however late in the day. The key now for the Great Brita coach Andy Goodway is to use him to optimum effect.

Despite his success at fullback, Robinson will not resent a return to the wing for this series. More relevant will be the ability of Great Britain to use his strength and clusiveness in the middle of the field; he was a halfback when Wigan found him playing junior league in Leeds.

"I can do a bit of damage in those areas when the forwards start blowing a bit. I'm not the greatest in the world in any of those positions, but sometimes it can work well if I get into them."

Amen to that, the broad church that is British rugby league will say this afternoon. There will be a few out-and-out heathens quietly praying for Jason Robinson to practice those preachings.

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ansra :---

∄en =;---

Dansons :--

Menor : Tares

NEWMARKET

#### GREAT BRITAIN y AUSTRALIA

at Wemb	- ley	Stadium							
Probable teams									
J RobinsonWigan	1	D Lockyear	Brisban						
A HunteSt Helens	2	B Mullins							
P NewloveSt Helens	3	A Ettingshaus	enCronuli						
K RadlinskiWigan	4	R Girdler	Pennil						
A SullivanSt Helens									
A FarrellWigan, capt									
B GouldingSt Helens	7	C Gower	Penril						
B McDermott Bradford	8	Stevens	Cronult						
j LowesBradford	9	S Walters	N Queensland						
P BroadbentSheffield	10	B Thom	Brisbane						
C JoyntSt Helens	11	M Adamson	Penntt						
M CassidyWigan	12	G Tallis	Brisbane						
P SculthorpeWarrington	13	D Smith	Brisbane						
Substitutes: S McNamara Substitutes: R Keams (Perth)									
(Bradford) P Atcheson	R Kimmorley	(I-bunter).							
(St Helens), A Mortey (Leeds),	C Greenhill (C	ronulla).							
(St Helens), A Moriey (Leeds), D Sampson (Castleford)	K Negas (Canbo	erra)							
Referee: P Houston (New Zealar			) (Sky Sports 1)						
<del></del>									

#### WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE

#### **TODAY** Football

FA CARLSBERG VASE First round: Wil-FA CARLSBERG VASE, First round: wai-ingran v Stockton (20; Steamendale v West Auckland; South Shleb's v Charberton; East Memcheastr v Rossendale; Fow Law v St Helens; Taclasser Abbon v Theddey; Prud-hoe v Brodsworth; Poulton Victoria v Aeth-ingran; Presot Cathles v Shetheld; Murton v Rossington Main; Seaham Red Ster v Half Read: Lerow Roofina Boldon CA v Bootle; arrow Roofing Boldon CA v Bo sh Victoria v Northallerton; Ess Ballingham Symbonia v Eccleshal; Centieron Gabriels v Marsies; Hatfield Main v Nantwich; Peterlea Newtown v Hearan; Bidwarth MW v Boston Town; Kings Heath v Wisdnesfraid; Bridgnorth v Boldmers St Michaels; Blooketh v Rushall Clymoto; Sendwell Borough v Staveley MW; Websell Wood v Woroscier Arthelico; Stratford v Bristal; Mintees Blackstone v Cogenhoe; Barbury v Oadby, Amdid v Stapenhal; Newcestle Town v Palsall Ville; Krypansky Victoria v Sendlacre; Barwell v Pord Sports Desentry; Hudonel v Creastown; Lye v Stouppert Swife; Newport Pagnall v Frist Lana OB; Flackwell Heath v Leighton; Harwich & Panieston v Tring; London Collegy v Brache Sparta; Braintree v Bury Town; By v Wiventhoe; Concord Rangers v Great Yamouth; Woodbridge v Southend Manor; Whatton v Weekstone: Wooth Bux Cose v Edgrave Town; Ford Lid v Sudbury Wanders; Norwich Lid v Welvyn Gerden City; Anelsy v St Neote; Stoffold v Maldon; Histon v Withern; Toythur v Bowner, Histon Krynes v Greathour v Bowner, Fallenham v Potters Bar, Sudbury Town v Bowner, Histon Krynes v Greathour, Their v Bardinghon; Borough v Warre; Tiptne v Sawholdgevort; Weltham v Egham; Langney Sporte v Farriam; Sudming Kown, Sendon v Fewenshem; Sumham v Egham; Langney Sporte v Farriam; Sudey v Strock House; Chatham v Halsham (et Statig-Langney Boote v Farriam; Sudey v Strock House; Chatham v Halsham (et Statig-Langney Sporte v Farriam; Sudey v Strock House; Chatham v Halsham (et Statig-Langney Sporte v Farriam; Sudey v Strock House; Chatham v Halsham (et Statig-Langney Sporte v Farriam; Sudey v Strock House; Chatham v Halsham (et Statig-Langney Sporte v Farriam; Sudey v Strock House; Chatham v Halsham (et Statig-Langney Sporte v Farriam; Sudey v Strock House; Chatham v Halsham (et Statig-Langney Sporte v Farriam; Sudey v Strock House; Chatham v Halsham (et Statig-Langney Sporte v Farriam; Sudey v Strock House; Chatham v Halsham (et Statig-Langney Sporte v Farriam; Sudey v Strock House; Chatham v Langney Sporte v Farriam; Sudey v Strock House; Chatham v Langney Sporte v Farriam; Sudey

ropolizan Police v North Leigh; Horshem v Ramsgate; Cowes Sports v Epsom & Ewell; Turtorloge Wells v Wick; Windoor & Elon v Shoreham; Corinthian v Stade Green; Deal v Godsliming & Guidflord: Bicester v Little-hammon; Ablington Utal v Cemberley; East-bourne Town v Chipatead; Bodmin v Bournerouth; Charlo v Plata Tower (20); Chippenham v Devizes; Melicham v Windoon Supermanne v Portisever; Paution v Minched; BAT Sports v Halfer; Hungerlord v Westbury; Eastleigh v Bridgort; Palmouth v Bridgorater; Bristington v Emons; Bernerton Health Harleguling v Totton; Endsletch v Newbury; Fahrord Town v Gosport Bordugh; Andower v Keynsham.

sleigh v Newbury; Falford Town v Gosport
Bortugh; Andower v Keynsham.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE, Premiler Divisione
Aylesbury v Sutton Utd; Basingstole v Culwhich; Bishop's Stortford v Gravesend &
NorthBeet Borehem Wood v Yeading; Bromley v St. Absers; Carahaston v Purliest; Degerham & Recturidge v Oxford City; Harrow
Borough v Heybridge; Hightin v Entled;
Kingstorien v Cheolisen; Welton & Hersham
v Isindon, First Divisione: Berkhamated v Layton Perment; Graye v Chertsey; Leatherhead
v Bitishcey; Mederthead Uni v Addershot;
Molesey v Minyteleage; Romford v Abrigdon
Town; Steines v Uxbridge; Thame v Bognor Royers; Wenthing v Hampton, Seeond Division: Benstand v Breachnet; Berking v Bedford; Chelinat Si Petter v Teury;
Chesturt v Touring & Micham, Third Division: Caption v Wingste & Frichey; East
Thurrock v Conithtien Casuels; Hertford v
Croydon Athletic; Hornichurch v Lewes;
Southall v Harlow.

UNINDOND LEAGUE Premier Divisions.

UNIBOND LEAGUE Premier Division: Ac v Bember Bridge; Colleyn Bay v aparmymou; Friedey v Chorley; Geissborough v Winsfort; Calseley v Lancaster; Leigh RMI v Mauhe; Redelffe Borough v Beston Ital; Runcom v Byra Sparians, First Division: Belper v Whit-ley Bay: Budon v Whitoy; Congleton v Mat-lock; Droyleddin v Winton; Eastwood Town v Grebna; Fiscton v Farstey Cettic; Harnegate Town v Tratford. Nettre-field v Ashton; Stocksbridge PS v Greet Harwood; Work-ington v Bradford PA. DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Olivisions. Achinord v Greeley Bath v Wordstors Pomsarous v Crawlay, Burton Abdon v Altrensone: Forst Green v Hastings: Halasowen v Stringbourne; Nunesion v Dorchester; Rothwell v Giouesser; Selisbury v Kings Lynn; St Leonards v Merityn; Tamworth V Cambridge City, Mildisend Divisions Bedworth v Sutton Golffield; Balaeriel v Bracidey; Corby v Grantfram; Evesham v Solliull Sono; Hinckley Und v Runner, Moor Green v Stafford; Peget v Biston; Recing Cub Warwnck v Webett; Stouthridge v Reastor; VS Rugby v Radditch. Southern Division: Beldook v Westerloville; Chalmstort v Margate; Canderiord v Bushley; Chancestor v Ergby Redditch. Southern Division: Beldook v Westerloville; Dertond v Newport IdW; Farefam v Clevedon; Paet v Witney; Newport AFC v Hearit; Weston-super-Mare v troubings; Weston, Paet v Witney; Newport AFC v Hearit; Weston-super-Mare v troubings; Western Paet v Minery; Newport AFC v Hearit; Weston-super-Mare v troubings; Weston: Beldook v Harstable v Erth; Canterbury v Henne Bay; Cray v Hythe; Greenwich Borough v Londawood; Swanley Furness v VCD; Whitstable v Erth; Linulet Subsess Hit; Redhill v Portflett; Satoleam Uld v Weingham; Hassocies v Satery; Mile Oak v Burgess Hit; Redhill v Portflett; Satoleam Uld v Weingham; Hassocies v Satery; Mile Oak v Burgess Hit; Redhill v Portflett; Satoleam Uld v Weingham; Clesborough v Northempton Spencer; Eyneston v Vedengheough; Potton v Hotbeach; Speking Vorth

SCREWETX DIRECT LEAGUE Promier DIvision: Bideford v Odd Down; Bristol Menor Ferm v Taymon; Calne v Tiverton; Tomington v Mangotsfield.
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE ANDRITHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Premier Division: Denaby v Geeth Rom; Lwasedge v Brigg; Ossett Abtion v North Fer-ries v Matthy, Selby v Curzon Aghton. NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Divisions. Atherton Collerins v Mossey; Bacipool Rovers v Holer Od Boye; Chinatoe v Warrington; Darwen v Pennsbottom; Glo-sop North End v Sallord; Matre Road v Ather-ton LR; Vauchalf GM v Hassingden.

Kings Norton v West Mideruls Police; Walenhal v Oldbury.
ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE Finst Division: Boilington Tantes v Durban City; Consett v Durson FB; Guisborough v Crook; Stridon v Morpeth.
PRESS a JOURINAL HÜRHLAND POOTBALL LEAGUE: Born Ranges v Fraserburgh; Budsle Thele v Caschescuddir; Demonates v Coer Ranges; Egin Calv v Rother, Forse Mechanics v Lossiamouth; Fort William v Wick Academy; Hursty v Nam County, Keth v Peterberd.
LEAGUE OF WALES (2.30): Bangor City v Aberrystwyth (2/3); Casmarton Town v Barry Town; Carnass Ynys Mon v Carmarthen Iown; Connells Quey v Cambran; Haveliordwest v Conwy, inter Cable-To Cardiff v Rhyl (2/1); Newtown v Film Rown Utc; Rhyleder Town v Porthmedog.

Hisystem v Hint Town Utd; Hisystem Roun v Porthmodog. SMIRNOCHF IRISH LEAGUE Premier Divi-sion: Crusades v Ciffornille, Cleraton v Por-tadown: Linitato v Bentonen; Omegin v Ards. Hint Division: Ballydars v Dungsmion Swits; Carrick v Distillery; Limesedy v Ben-gor, Newty v Lame. jor, Newry v Leme. HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRIS-LAND Premier Division: Derry City v Pion

Rugby League BRITISH GAS FIRST TEST MATCH: Great British v Australia (230) (at Wearbley). Rugby Union

TETLEY'S BITTER CUP Train's round: Barking v Exetar; Bedford v Staines (30); Blackheath v Sandel (30); Broadstreet v Bracknett Cambarley v Kendel: Coventry v Sheffald (30); Concester v Tynedele (2.5); Fytia v Aparite; Havent v Rugby; London Scottler v Waterloo (245); Lydney v London Scottler (30); Moseley v Liverpod St Helens (30); North Waterlan v Noestyn Past, Orel v Navbury (30); Olicy v Manchester (2.5); Rotherhain v Leurosston (215); Stouthridge v Haadhe; Waterland v Morley; Water Hardepool v Chetenhain (30); Whaterladde v Wordsster. ternam (30); Whansous v workses: WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE First Division (2.0); Blackwood v Abertillery; Casphilly v Marthy; Cross Kays v Bonymaer; Llandwery v Teorchy; Newbridge v Maester; Porthylood v Durnanti: Rumney v Aberavon; South Wales Polica v UWC.
SRU LEAGUE TROPHY Play-offic Ayr v Godonians; Boroughmur v Meddes; Curris v

SRU LEAGUE TROPHY Play-offs: Any Cotdonians: Bornughmur v Medoes; Curris v
Durntee HSFP: Edinburgh Acads v String
County; Gala v Kilmamock; Glasgow Hawks
Visino; Glasgow Southern v Aberdeen
GSFP: Grangemouth v Selicit; Hawks v Wataccinans; Kirkcakty v Jed-Pones Maksepburgh
v Bigger; Preston Lodge v Peobles; Steverny
v Glaviother; Stevents Med P v Hitheaddordarhit; West of Scotland v Harioth FP.
CLUB MATCHES: Blackburn v Preston
Grasshoppers (235; Notinghern v Hindday (20).

PTOCKEY
SECOND WOMEN'S TES'E England v Korea (2/6) (at Million Keynes).
NATIONAL LEAGUE Flest Division: Sueherts v Hampeteed & Westminster (2/0);
Bournville v Loughborough Students (2/30);
Bromley v Sheffield (2/0); Brookands v
Stouppor (2/0); Cheinston v Lewes (2/5); Flebrands v Harlaston Magpies (1/0); Huš v
Gloucaster City (2/3); Inden Gymhórea v Isca (1/30); Oxford Hawks v Warrington (1/0); Oxford Unix v St Albans (11/45); Surbiton v Havant (1/0); ESI, SOUTH Premier: Anchorians v Purley

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est, south i Presser, Antoniaris y Amerikan Beckertsen v High Mycaribe; Boursemouth y Turbridge Wels; City of Portemouth y Wins-tone; Herne Bay v Old Whitgiffians; Malderhead y Trajers; Flictmond y Chichester; Withouthort

NUMBER OF PREFERENCES TOWN.
WEST OF ENGLAND & SOUTH WALES
Premier bath Successors v Chellerherr, Ex-eter Univ v Brists Univ, Swenses v Chellerherr, Ex-ster Univ v Brists Univ, Swenses v Chellerherr, Ex-ternor Vale v Whitehurch; Weston-super-Mars v Robinsons. Taunton Valle v Whitchurch; Weston-super-Mare v Robhmans.
DTZ MTDLAND Premier: Blossomfeld v Coveritry & North Werwick; Edgbaston v North Stafford; Khalsa v Herapton-har-den; Notthropen v Bloswich; Olton & Weet Warwick v Northurphon Salns: WOMEEN'S EAST SUPER LEAGUE: Ashford v Derstrom; Cambridge City Inswich; St Al-bens v Welwyn Garden City. WOMEEN'S WEST Premier: Bournermouth v Learninger; Chellenhain v Colved; Exercit V Berdand.
WOMEEN'S NORTH First Divisions Leyland

WOMEN'S NORTH Hinst Division: Leyland Motors v Chester; Shaffield v York; Welson v Liverpool Safton; Winnington Park v Black-WOMEN'S ROYAL AL-FAISEL MIDLAND Premier: Belper v Luton; Hampton-In-Arden Kattering: Lelcaster v Pickwick; North Iteris v Carmson Ramblers.

Tulse.
WOMEN'S TRYSPORTS THREE COUNTIES
First Division: Bracknell v Windsor; City of
Ontord v Newbury: Familiem Common v Henhey; Oxford Hawke v Soning; Oxford Univ.
v West Witney: Ranelegh v Milton Keynes;
Reading v Milton Keynes II; Wycombe Rye v
Maidenheed.

Basketball

BUDWEISER LEAGUÉ: Birmingham Bullets v Watford Royals (730). LINI-BALL TRIOPHY: Derby Storm v Shel-

ice hockey Benson & Hedge leg: Cardiff Devils v N Other sports

SCOTING: British super-birntamenicht cham-plonship: Michael Brode (Menchesier holder) v Wison Docherty (Sco), Vacare British tyh-middleweight championship: Ersely Brigham (Manchesier) v Nicky Thurbin (Biord) (Gesgow), TERNIS: LTA Women's Challenger (Edinburgh). TOMORROW Football

FA CARLEBERG VASE First round: Stew-arts & Lloyds Corby v Rocesser for Corby Town): Endshigh v Newbury. LEAGUE OF WALES: Boow Vale v Westrocol

HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Division: Cork City & Bo-hemians (20); St Patricks Ath v Dunclaik (3.5); University College Dublin v Stigo Rovers (3.5). Rugby League BARTLETT INSURANCE TOUR MATCH: Leeds Students v Ouversland Students (230) (of Headinglan). Rugby Union

TOUR MATCHES: Edinburgh v Tonge (21s) fat Gobienecie); Scotish Barders v New South Wales (20) (at Greenyerds, Marcse). ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP ONE; Gouceaser v Harlequins (20); Sevecers v Bris-tol (30); Weape v Sale (30). Hockey SHA CUP Men's third round: Busharts v Cambridge Chy (2:30); Bournsmouth v Sect-erham (20); Bourntle v Sheffled (2:30); Bridg-north v loswich (1:30); Brooklands v

rampaseou, Haddich v Shatlord, In-arpoot, Sheffeld v Wildom, Shipetoni v Towcestriens, Sazenger v Typedi gate v St. Abars; Swindon v Hamif-vale v St. Abars; Swindon v Hamif-vale v St. Abars, Swindon v Hamif-vale v St

Basketball SUDWEISER LEAGUE: London Leicester Riders (50) CLASSIC COLA MEKS NATIONAL CUP

Ice hockey SUPERLEAGUE: N Other sports

## 23/SPORT

TENNIS

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## Rusedski puts on a happy face

Greg Rusedski, beaten 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 by the Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the quarter-finals of the Paris Indoor Open yesterday, refused to be downcast after his defeat.

Ranked No 5 in the world, Rusedski knows he will go above the injured Goran Ivanisevic when the next list is announced on Monday.

week for me in Paris," he said. "I had two very good matches and, even today, I thought I played pretty positive for most of the match. So I'm looking forward to Stockholm next week and then peaking for the ATP championship in Hannover."

Rusedski did not play as well as he did in crushing both the Dutch left-hander Jan Siemerink and the Czech Bohdan Ulihrach in earlier rounds, but Kafelnikov is a far better player than his first two opponents.

The 23-year-old Russian is ranked No 6 in the world, only one place below Rusedski, and was as high as No 3 last November. He dropped down the rankings after breaking his hand just before the Australian Open in January. The injury kept him out of action for several months.

Kafelnikov was also good enough to win the French Open in Paris last year, so it was not surprising that his ground strokes were far supepior to any that Rusedski could roduce.

Though he does not have

England yesterday claimed a four-wicket victory over New Zealand in their Cricket Max International in

Auckland. Derbyshire's Chris Adems was the top scorer for England, cap-tained by Matthew Maynard, hitting 58 in the opener to the three-match

TODAY'S

NUMBER

900m

Cricket

SPORTING DIGEST

the Briton's powerful service, he has a consistent first serve and a more reliable return.

Rusedski served 23 aces but missed too many volleys when coming in behind his service. That was a fatal flaw in the opening game of the match. when he missed three successive volleys from 30-15 up to lose his service. The break not "This has been a positive only inspired Kafelnikov but earned the Russian the first set.

Rusedski got back into the match after breaking Kafelnikov in the sixth game of the second set to lead 4-2, punching the air with delight and holding his next two service games to level matters.

Then Rusedski had another poor game in the sixth game of the final set, missing an easy smash and then missing two seemingly easy forehand volleys to drop his service. Rusedski never gives up and

the Briton had a break point in the following game. He could not take advantage, however, and Kafelnikov ran out a good winner after 86 minutes.

Though the ATP will not confirm that Rusedski has qualified for Hannover, the player has no doubts. "It would need a miracle for me not to be in Hannover," he said.

"Now I'm going home to practise my returns and volleys a little more and sort everything out. I've just got to make sure I don't miss those few easy volleys. Then I will be all



Colin McRae piles on the pressure to take the lead in the Australian Rally in Perth yesterday

### McRae's title hopes still healthy

Needing to win to keep alive his behind McRae. The final 11th stage world championship challenge, Colin McRae led the Australian Rally after 10 of the 11 stages on the first finished.

RALLYING

advantage of the misfortunes of his rifellow Briton Richard Burns, in a Mitsubishi, with the Frenchman Didier

of the day was due to start four and a half hours after the 10th stage

McRae's main title rivals, the McRae, in a Subaru, took full defending champion and title leader Tommi Makinen, in a Mitsubishi, vals to open an eight-second lead over and overnight leader, Carlos Sainz, in a Ford, struggled.

Ferme. He was sixth, one minute 41 seconds behind McRae after the 10 Fellow Finn Juha, Kankkunen's

and had to be pushed out of Parc

Ford hit a tree on the first stage of the day and was penalised for arriving late at time control.

Sainz was fourth at the end of stage Makinen incurred a 30-second 10, 52sec behind the Scotsman

### Lamb warns of spiralling wages

Tim Lamb, the chief executive are exaggerated a little in the of the England and Wales Cricket Board, has urged counties to show restraint in their offers to available players and to avoid the spiralling wage costs which threaten other sports.

Shane Warne was reported to have been offered more than £150,000 by Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire and Sussex before deciding to reject the chance to play in England and Waqar Younis was on a similarly lucrative contract with Glamorgan last season. Jonathan Barnett, Chris

Adams' agent, has been quoted as wanting around £20,000-ayear more for his client than any other English player following his release from Derbyshire. Lamb is urging counties to

look at the long-term future of the game. "Even allowing for the fact that agents do hype things up a bit and these offers game at the lower end."

media, we have an over-riding responsibility not to pay the current crop of cricketers more than the game can afford," he stressed. "We understand that it is im-

levels of remuneration, which is why we have enhanced the pension arrangements and sit down every year to discuss the minimum wage. "We have a responsibility to

portant to pay the players fair

invest in the future of the sport from the development of players to the improvement of facilities and it would be irresponsible of us to over-spend."

David Graveney, the general secretary of the Professional Cricketers' Association, said: 'We realise there are comparisons with other sports if we start to overstretch ourselves. It threatens the future of the

BASKETBALL

#### Barkley on guard for trouble

Charles Barkley has decided not to retire from basketball after his latest bar-room brawl, but the National Basketball Association put new rules in place yesterday for the Houston Rockets' forward.

"The league put new guidelines in my life," he said after meeting with NBA officials. "I have to bring security guards with me every time I go out. It's unfortunate.

Barkley threw a man through a window during a confrontation in Orlando last weekend after Barkley had a drink thrown at him.

Before yesterday's meeting, Barkley said he might retire if the NBA punished him or made him promise not to retaliate against abusive fans. But after a 90-minute meeting with the deputy commissioner

Russ Granik, Barkley thanked the league for backing him. "The league was very sup-

portive of me. They understand where I am coming from," he said. "But when I get arrested, it's embarrassing for me and for the league."

He flew back to Houston after the meeting and said he hoped to play in last night's game against Cleveland.

Barkley said he wants to continue playing but he is concerned about the increase in confrontations, "The situation is escalating," he said, "and sooner or later, something bad is going to happen. I just want to play basketball and be left alone."

Barkley, 34, is in the final year of a six-year contract that would pay him about \$2.5m (£1.53) this season.

BOXING

#### Tyson in fear of a life ban

MALTA GRAND PRIX (Vallette) Quanter-line:
K Doherty (ir) br. J Grech (Haile) 5-4.
BENSON: & HEDGES CHAMPIONSHIP
(Blatvern) Fourth round: O Coles (Eng) br. G Thorseon (Soo) 4-1: E Marming (Eng) br. (Odior
(Eng) 5-3; O Hern (Nac) br. C Stripp br. (Odior
(Eng) 5-3; O Hern (Nac) br. Stropp br. (De)
(Fig) br. J O'Boye (Eng) 5-2; B Howswall (Eng)
br. M McGrotty (Eng) 5-4; J Lardner (Soo) br. J
MS (Eng) 5-2; M Rhodes (Eng) br. J Delamey
(iri) w/o. Mike Tyson, the former heavyweight world champion, will need about six weeks to fully recover from a motorcycle accident even if tests show that his lung has repaired itself, doctors said vesterday.

Connecticut state police said that Tyson had been fined \$77 (£48) for not having a motorcycle licence when he overturned his new Honda on an

interstate highway ramp. Dr Ira Trocki, the fighter's plastic surgeon and physician, said the injury should not damage Tyson's boxing skills. The

31-year-old fighter, who was

banned from the sport after biting the ear of his opponent Evander Holyfield, can apply for reinstatement in July.

However, in an interview taped before the accident. Tyson says: "I really think I'll be banned for the rest of my

In the ABC's Prime Time Live, to be shown Monday night, he says: "I truly think everyone hates me. I truly believe that, because no one gets punished more than I am. But I understand: I'm a big boy, and I believe big boys have big ordeals to deal with."

full leg run yesterday.

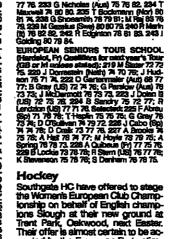
Auriol, in a Toyota, third 34 seconds time penalty when his car failed to start McRae.

chester City, Colesset (Blackburn), D Hugh-es (Aston Ville), Searle (Stockporn), Roberts (Liverpool), Bowen (Chertion), Hawarth (Coven-try), L. Jones (Transvers), Bellamy (Norwich), Jestineon (St. Johnstone), M Jones (Leedt).

Recaining metches: 6 Hov Saudi Arabia v Chine. 7 Nov Cater v Iran. 12 Nov Chine v Kuwait; Cater v Saudi Arabia.

GOTT
US PGA, TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP (Housiton, Texas) Leading first-round accrea (US unless stated); 69 J Perrovit (Swe, D Duvel, J Furyl, 87 S Factor, 68 I Glasson, T Totes, M Olfessa, D Lovel, S Flock, 69 A Mages, 3 McCerrot, M Calcasacctis, P Michelent, T Woods, 70 P Stanisosed, F Pichio (PC), V Singit (Fig. N Price (ZW), S Eleington (Jus), J Lowert, 7 L Letter, E Ele (SA), 72 S Jones, T Letters, G Norman (Jus), 78 J Maggert, PGA ELROPEAN TOUR SCHOOL PRE-G Norman (Aus). 78 J Maggan.
PGA ELINOPEAN TOUR SCHOOL PRE-CUALIFYING Final regad scores (GB or In universated): Empores (Sp): Cualifare 203 R Coughin 69: 69 67; J Miller 68: 68: 67. 205 A Wall 69: 64 72; M Hazaldan 69: 65: 71. 205 S Critims 68: 70: 68: C Clark 71: 70: 65; 7 Munica (Sp): 68: 67: 71: 208 (artist play-off), N Lacories 69: 70: 69; N Labios. (Nett): 67: 70: 71. Non-cualifers: 208 (beaten in play-off), S Labrary (Fr) 67: 71: 70; D Fisher 69: 65: 71: 209: S Gellacher





Southgate HC have offered to stage the Women's European Club Champ-ionship on betaif of English champ-ions Slough at their new ground at Trent Park, Oakwood, next Easter. Their offer is almost certain to be ac-cented by the European Federation. cepted by the European Federation. Ice hockey

# Tennis PARIS MEN'S INDOOR OPEN Singles, quarter-Shels: Y Kalonicu: (Rue) bi G Rusedad (GB) 6-4-3-6-8-3; J Sjorkman (Swe) bi R Krajicak (Neth) 6-4-6-1-nt. KREMLIN CUP WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT (Monorol) Singles, quarter-sinels; J Alouchna (Cz Rep) bi V Wilserra (US) 7-5-6-4; A Supjema (Alpon) bi A Sendans-Vicato (Sp) 6-7-6. LIA WOMEN'S CHALLENGER (Edinburgh) Singles, quarter-sinels: P Wertasch (Aus) bi E Zindo (Swif) 7-6 7-6; B Schwartz (Aus) bi M Kockes (Gar) 5-7-8-1 6-2; S Necuk (Ng) bi S Smilar (GB) 5-7-6. (GB) CARONANK TOUR (Redbridge) Men's quart-(CE) 7-5, 7-5 GEROBANK TOUR (Redbridge) Men's quarter-flask: N Gould (Ason) bt J Fox (Lings) 8-4 6-2; T Spirks (Nortalk) bt P Hand (Berts) 7-5 7-5; N Wasi (Hampshire) bt P Robinson Nortains) 8-2 1-0 ret: A Parmer (Harts) bt I Bates (Hampshire) 5-3. Semi-Shaite: Spirks bt Gould 6-0 7-5; West bt Parmer 7-6 6-4. Whosen's quarter-finale: A Nationaria (Essent) bt I Receipt (Notation 6-3 6-4; J Desistin (Subsanchis Christia) 6-3 6-7 6-2; E Jetts (Oxfordshire) bt Z Golpenszz (Hun) 8-1 6-4; J Lustron (Rus) bt E Eriton (Oxfordshire) bt Desistin (Oxfordshire) bt Desis

#### RACING RESULTS

The amount in francs

(£95m) the World Cup or-

ganising committee has

taken from its 40 corporate

sponsors ahead of next summer's finals in France.

12.50: 1. TUSSLE (M Ferton) 5-4 fav; 2. Busili 5-1: 3. Splendid leolation 7-1 14 ran. 2, 14, (M Bel, Newmarket). Tota: 2200; £140, £220, £200. DF: £180. CSF: £547. Trio: £100. 1.20: 1. RABAH (R HE) 5-1; 2. Albertahin

7-1; 2. Mawared 8-15 lev; 3. Swastness Herself 5-1 4 ran. 1/6, 11 (J Dunlop, Arundell Tota: \$380 DF: \$280 CSF: \$1074. Get Total Land Land Land Control (R. Muller)
3.05: 1. HAPPY DAYS AGAIN (R. Muller)
1: 2. Classy Class 3-1; 3. Attentic Viking
1: 2. Class 3-1; 3. Atte

£1030 CSF; £1970 3.40: 1. ORDAINED (A Mackey) 10-1; 2. 3.40: 1. OFEIANNED (A MACKRY) TO-1; 2. Terry 15-1; 3. Back Rowr 22-1; 4. Veroni-ce Franco 7-2 fev. 29 ren. 1½, 1½%, (E. Alston, Longion), Total £1.40; £2.50; £6.30, £2.40; £1.60 DF; £116.0. CSF; £13.486. Tio-

4.15: 1. TIPPERARY SUNSET (P 4.15: "IFFERIARY SUNSET (P Roberts) 9.4 text; 2. Glen Ogli 14-1; 3. Pro-tems Bay 14-1 11 ren; 14, nk. (J Quirn, Ma-ton), Told: 53:30; 51:20, 52:50, 53:30 , DF:

WETHERBY

2.45: 1. GUMERIAN CHALLENGE (L. 10.30: 2. Tapasish 3-1; 3. Martile Myer) 10.30: 2. Tapasish 3-1; 3. Martile 10.30: 4 ren. 2-1 fav Regel Romper (4th). Total 7.2 festisely, Matton). Total (250. DF: 10.77.

Ipswich have failed to sign the Wolves striker Don Goodman. The clubs agreed a fee of £250,000 but the 31-year-old could not sort out personal terms.

The former Arsenal, Laicester and Northern Ireland central defender Colin Hill, 33, is looking for a club in England after a spell in Sweden with IFK Gothenburg and then Trelleborg. The FA Cup first-round tie between Bristol Rovers and Gillingham will now be played on Friday 14 November. The Notts County v Colwyn Bay tie will be played at noon on 16 November.

CRESTY FUNDAMENTAL TRANSFERS: Gary Walsh (goallasper) Michaestrough to Bradford City (2500000); Michaestrough to Bradford City (2500000); Michaestrough (2500000).

ENGLAND URIDER-18 SOUAD (\* Russia, Usta Champtonship preliminary round,

tunerom, Umerod (Middesbrough), Robinson (Leck), Stromen (Romere), Upson (Arserel), Woodgate (Lecks), WALES SQUAD (Friendly International V Brazil, Breelie, Tuneday, 17 November Southell (Evertin), P Jones (Southelpon), Jenkins (Fudderfield, Edwards (Brissi Cry), Page (Wotord), A Williams (Mohes), Ready (Quierris Park Rangers), Robinson (Cherton), Oster (Everton), A Williams (Southenplos),

NEWMARKET 8-ti far: 3. Brave Reward 2-1.3 ran. Ns. 4 (I Duniop, Arundel). Tota: \$450. DF: \$220. CSF: \$337. NR: Clapham Common.

1.55: 1. SAAFEYA (L. Dettori) 7-2; 2, Seedmoor Chembrey 7-1; 3. Ghellio 11-4 fat; 3. Proper Blue 7-2 9 ran. 1.1/2. (J Gosen, Newmarkel). Total: \$4.00; \$2.00, \$1.00; \$2.00, \$1.00; \$2.00, \$1.00; \$2.00, \$1.00; \$2.00; \$1.00; \$2.00; \$1.00; \$2.00; \$1.00; \$2.00; \$1.00; \$2.00; \$1.00; \$2.00; \$1.00; \$2.00; \$1.00 2.30: 1. LADY OF THE LAKE (R Firench)

ast £183424

238.0 CSF: C32.52 Tricest C329.87 Tric; 238.700 Tric: 514780. E28700 (FID: E14780. Jackpot: 047929.50; 254005.17 carried for-ward to Newmarket today. Macepot: 530780. Cuedipot: 553.30. Place 6: 5528.59. Place 8: 5410.51.

1.35: 1. CHADWICK'S GINGER (B atan) 10-1; 2. Major Harris 15-2; 3. Non Grapson) 10-1; 2. Major Harris 15-2; 3. Non Visings 7-2. 5 ten. 8-4 few Dr Bones (4th). 1, 10 (W Timing, Thomson-Le-Cisy). Total 22000, E430, E210 DF: £1840, CSF: £8016. 2000. Land Least of Fishell CSF (156).

2.10 1. MAYBE O'GRADY (N Smith) 7-4;

2. King Grassich 5-1 Orby two Inished 4.

3. King Grassich 5-1 Orby two Inished 4.

3. King Conningham, Hutton Rudby,

3. King E230. DF: 5380. CSF: 5382. NR:

2.45; 1. CUMBRIAN CHALLENGE (L.

Badiminton

HONG KONG OPEN Counter-finale: Manz:
Wong Swee Mun (Maley) bit B Sansoso (Indon) 5-8 15-8; T Start-Lauridsen (Den) bit
Chang Jeng-shyuang (Ba) 15-6 3-4; P Resmassen (Den) bit Tam Kal-chuen (HK) 5-2
5-9; P Gede Christersen (Den) bit Fung Permed (Re) 5-11 7-16 15-4; Women: Zhu Yuryi (Ch) bit Park Woon-lyung (S Kor) 2-10 1-11
11-8; Wu Hulmin (Ch) bit Koon Wal-che (HK)
11-3 6-11 11-5; Gong Rums (Ch) bit B eenradidar (Neth) 2-11 11-7; Lee Kyung-won (S
Kor) bit Huang Chle-chi (Re) 11-5 11-8.

Football

Everton's Danny Cademarteri has been drafted into the England Under-18 squad to face Russia in a Usfa Championship preliminary round match after his outstanding early-sea-son form. The match will be played at Gresty Road on Friday, 14 November.

ENGLAND UNDER-18 SOUAD & Russie, Ueta Championahip preliminary rosend, Greety Rosed, 14 November): Bell (Sverion), Brown (Manchester Und), Cadamarind (Everion), Campoell (Michestrough), Cooper (Not-drightm Forest), Dunn (Erchtum), Griffin (Stoia), Hastien (Sreffleid Word, Hubbert (Swindorn), Johnson (Crown), Birchole (Leeds), Birorie (Sheffleid Und), Michole (Chartron), Omserod (Michestrough), Robin-son (Leeds), Stroman (Farmwer), Upson (Ar-sers), Woodgate (Leeds).

3.15: 1. DESERT MOUNTAIN (P Car-berry) 5-1; 2. Nobile Colours 14-1; 3. Fair-by Strarp 9-1.7 ran. 4-6 fav Deallowed (fail). 8, 1% (N Callaghan, Newmarket). Tota: 2750; 23.20, 24.70. DF: 237.10. CSF: £58.97. 3.45: 1. DRECT ROUTE (P Carberry) 2-7 av; 2. Dawn Mission 7-2; 3. Newton Miss 16-1.3 ran. 11,4. (J Howard Johnson, Crock). Total: \$130. DF: \$110. CSF: \$153. 4.20: 1. THIRTY BELOW (G Lee) 5-1; 2.

a.cu: 1, 17851 1 DELLIW (6 199) 5-1; 2. Cellie Duke 5-1; 3. Moonlight Venture 20-1 8 rm. 5-2 fer Scotton Green (68), 2-1, 2. (M Chapman, Mariest Resen). Tota: E700; £140, £210, £330, . DF: £750, CSF: £2795. Tricest: £44276. Placepot: \$150720. Quedpot: \$4680. Place: 6: £3645.67. Place 5: £247.70.

BANGOR-ON-DEE 1.10: 1. SKANE RIVER (R Burns) 7-1; 1.10: 1. SKANE HIVER (IT BUTS) (1):
2. Future King 11-2; 3. The Flying Doctor
3-1 co fax 8 ran, 3-1 co faxs Blatism Outburst (unseated rider), Miling Brook (5th);
1%, 3. (G Richards), Total (5x40; £251) £390.
DF: £2480. CSF: £3867.

1.45: 1. QUEEN OF SPADES (C Lioustyn) 5-4 fer; 2. Padre Wio B-4; 3. Hard Try 50-1 8 ran. 3, 12. (N Twiston-Davies). Tola: £20; £150; £20; £480; DF; £370; CSF; 2.20: 1. ANABRANCH (E Calaghan)

Evens for, 2. Coolteen Hero 15-6; 3. Sig-ma Run 9-2. 4 ran. 4, 19, 17 M. Jefterson). Tota: 2190. DF: £170. CSF: £2.99. 2.55: 1. EDGEMOOR PRINCE (A P Mo-Coy) 2-1 far, 2 Golden Helio 8-1; 3, Bram-CO) 2-1 RM; 2 GOODEN FISHED C+; 3 SHEET-bloberry 5-1 9 ren. 2°/s, 8, (P Hobbs) Toile: £300; £170, £240, £130, 0°; £137, CSF; £7708, Tricast: £6453, Tric: £1250. 3.29: 1. SYLVAN SABRE (R McGrath) 7-2

3.25; 1. SYLVAN SABRE (R McGraft) 7-2 it tev; 2. Dentity 16-1; 3. Flying Eagle 7-2 it tev, 9 ren. 2%, 5. (D Shew). Tota: £5.20; £130, £3.50. £2.30. DF: £32.10. CSF: £61.34. Thosat £197.40 3.55: 1. MESTER BLAKE (R. Johnson) 8-1; 3.55: 1. MES LEM BLANE (M.J.CHREND 19-1; 2. Elemai City 11-4; 3. Another Course 14-1 10 ran. 5-2 tay Ideal Partner (fel) 4, 15. (R Lee). Totas: 57.80; 51.60, 51.40, 58.90, DF: 57.220, CSF: 528.58, Thicast: 528.392, Trio:

4.90: 1. MUSICHILL (R Massey) 20-1; 2. Barton 8-11 fav; 3. Crabbapple Hill 15-2. 17 ran. 4. 17. (D Nichalson). Totac (2160; 2480. 2140, 2350. CP: 2550. CSP: 23425. NR: Barleen. Thu: \$4000. Eighten Tho: \$4000 Placapot: £15600, Quadpot: £17.10. ace 5: £13701. Place 5: £13.27.

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## 24/FOOTBALL









## Marco Who becomes the talk of Glasgow

Rangers have unearthed a potent goal-scoring talent in the idiosyncratic Italian Marco Negri. Recruited from Serie A, he has so far scored 23 goals and is already being compared with Ally McCoist in his pomp and prime. David McKinney sees Serie A. the renegade laying down roots in Scotland.

In these increasingly multicultural football times, it should come as no surprise that Marco Negri should lead the goal-scoring charts in Scotland. Any sense of astonishment comes from the proliferation and quality of the goals the Italian has scored in the first quarter of the season.

With ice-cool precision he has scattered Scottish defences to score 23 goals in all competitions and help Rangers recover from a poor start. In Glasgow. the betting shops were happy in August to offer odds and take the cash on the novelty bet that Negri would score 50 goals. Three months on and, for the bookmakers at least, the novelty

is wearing off. The Italian's arrival passed virtually unnoticed, squeezed in to the club as Rangers prepared for an assault on Europe. He has shown himself to have the grace and style of a Versace suit and, costing £3.7m, he was almost as expensive.

That price is now being seen as a bargain, yet he was virtually unknown in his native country, contributing 15 for Perugia in his one productive season in

His career encompassed five clubs and several loan periods as well as a degree of notoriety resulting from a playboy image. enhanced by long hair and a characteristic earring.

Negri never spent more than 18 months at any club and on one occasion refused to play an away match, electing to stay in his hotel room as he had fallen out with the coach, Rangers will hope he can keep himself happy by scoring goals.

His move to Ibrox was clinched with a hat-trick against Bologna, a game in which he gave Walter Smith a glimpse of a goal-scoring talent no amount of money can buy.

At this stage in the season, scoring 50 goals might not be as fanciful a suggestion as it seems because Negri has already shown he can finish the chances created for him by Paul Gascoigne and Brian Laudrup. The two playmakers put the ball in as one of seven players brought front of him and invite him to

do the rest, something he does mestic campaign Negri lifted the with devastating efficiency.

Negri is in

not only in

front of goal,

have ensured his popularity in the fashion

the main

Collection

Photographs: Alan Peebles/

Daily Record

calendar

attraction in the club's

He equalled the Premier Division's personal goal-scoring record for one game with all of Rangers' goals in a 5-1 win over Dundee United, and scored four in the recent 7-0 demolition of Dunfermline.

Negri has scored in all nine of Rangers' league matches this season, which has set a new record for scoring in consecutive matches in the Premier Division. The previous record of eight was set by Ally McLeod

of Hibernian in season 1977-98. In his first game of the do-

and Hateley topped the 50-goals mark two seasons in a row. Negri combines the qualities of both players. He has the height and power of Hateley allied to the poacher's instinct for creating space and scoring goals that was McCoist's trademark.

ball over the head of a Hearts

over the advancing goalkeeper.

It was a moment of sublime skill

from a player who now threat-

scoring feats of the Mark Hate-

ley-Ally McCoist partnership at

its best. Between them, McCoist



Negri hits his 18th goal of the season against Hibernian at Easter Road Photograph: Eric Rutherford/Daily Record

Jim Jefferies, the manager of Hearts, who saw for himself the defender before lobbing a shot skills of Negri at Ibrox, is convinced Rangers have unearthed a goal machine.

He said: "He has great skill. ens single-handedly to equal the is quick off the mark and he is a good finisher. If Rangers are looking to replace McCoist, Negri could be the man. He doesn't get involved in the build-up to goals but he's always there at the finish."

That ability to merely score goals is one Rangers have indulged with McCoist in the past, content to allow him limited involvement throughout the 90 minutes while confident chances will be taken.

Negri's reluctance to help out led to his absence from the away leg of the Uefa Cup tie with Strasbourg, and while he has shown a reluctance to appear content in his work it required a talk with Smith to firmly establish that he was happy at Rangers.

The player insists his job is to score goals, not to tackle back or even demonstrate child-like glee every time the ball hits the back of the net.

The taciture Italian has taken to life in Glasgow in a way he could hardly have anticipated, as he has won the hearts not only of the Rangers supporters Smith has appeared reluc-

tant to talk too much about his discovery, but is in no doubt about the player's ability. "He's a natural goalscorer, so if you give him chances you know he'll find the back of the net,"

Negri's fiancée moved to Scotland recently and he has told friends he feels he is treated like a king in Glasgow. Away from the football, Negri regularly plays termis and golf, while his good looks have seen him in demand as a model. He features prominently in the Italian Collection calendar produced by the club.

Yet it is on the field that he continues to make the biggest impact, even if his achievements have to be tempered to an extent by the fact that he is playing in the Scottish League and not the Premiership. But he looks to better the goal-scoring prowess of Celtic's Joe McBride, who in 1966 had found the net 35 times by Christmas Eve. McBride himself has suggested the Italian

could score in any company. "I wouldn't say defences are poor in Scotland, but what you can say is that he is playing in a team which is providing plenty of ammunition as I did back then. He still has to finish off the chances and I believe if he was getting that kind of service, but also of Smith, the manager. even in England, he would still score as many."

#### SIDELINES

### King's Road or the Aston Expressway

Brawn and Bianchflower. The very words jar against each other, yet they provide the earliest links between Aston Villa and Chelsea.



Retire Assession

Kinklada keen to despite

Billy Brawn, well named at 6ft 2in and 13st 5lb, played for both today's opponents at the start of the century. Danny Blanchflower captained Villa before his glory, glory years with Spurs and later managed Chelsea.

His spell at Stamford Bridge was a classic wrong-place, wrong-time scenario. Chelsea fared much better with their next ex-Villa appointee, John Neal, while three former Blues nien, Tonnmy Docherty, Dave Sexton and Jim Barron, went on to managerial and coaching posts at Villa Park.

Players leaving Villa for Chelsea have included George Graham, Tony Hateley and Tony Dorigo. But until Kenny Swain moved the opposite way and gained Championship and European Cup winner's medals, Villa came off worse in their dealings. John Dunn, Tommy Hughes and John Phillips, all understudies to Peter Bonetti, had modest careers in the Midlands, though Chico Hamilton, a Chelsea debutant at 16, did go on to help Villa out of the Third Division.

In modern times, Andy Townsend exchanged the King's Road for the Aston Expressway. His departure for Middlesbrough has not, however, deprived the fixture of a connection. Tony McAndrew, a brawny Chelsea skipper under Neal. will be using his brains to help Villa in his new role as coach.

> Ten things that West Ham's Israeli midfielder Eyal Berkovitch might be missing today



Bible-bashers. Presi- 5 The beach. dent Ezer Weizman 6 The Gaza strip. Not to caused a sensation this be confused with the Gazweek when he said: "The Bible contains some very unappealing things which are not worth reading." 2 Haiva. A sweet sesame and sugar bar.

3 Armageddon – a prethellish nightmare (more ton Park tube at night). 4 Strikers with a clinical touch - Israeli surgeons surrounding dense mass withdrew their labour this will support you always. week in a staffing dispute. Sounds familiar?

za stripping, but equally memorable to witness.

7 The Wailing Wall.

8 Alf Garnett's absence. 9 Giddy Gov - Israel's Paul McCartney. (As opposed to Giddy Guv, as ty town, as opposed to a Harry Redknapp appears to be after each win). than can be said for Up- 10 The Dead Sea - a place to relax, secure in the knowledge that the

#### NAME OF THE GAME No 7: PSV EINDHOVEN

The Dutch club, who visit Newcastle in the Champions' League next week, were founded in 1913. They are so called because they are owned by the electronics company, Philips (Philips SV Eindhoven), which employs about a fifth of the town's 200,000 population. The club play at the Philips Stadium - if they move to a new ground might they follow Sunderland's example and call it the Stadium of Light?

#### THIS WEEK



Mick McCarthy, the Re-

public of Ireland manager.

will be hoping that Wednes-

day's 1-1 draw with Belgium

in Dublin in the first leg of

omen in his team's attempt

to qualify for France next

played in the last Republic

side to face the Belgians in

Dublin. On that occasion a

goalless draw in the European

Championship qualifying competition helped to see

the Irish into the finals.

The final tournament see

the Republic enjoy one of

their finest moments, when

Ray Houghton's early goal

earned a 1-0 victory con-

draw with the Soviet Union

kept Ireland's hopes alive by

Ten years ago McCarthy

summer.

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November 1967, Rangers sacked their manager, Scot Symon. His departure had some parallels with the present-day situation at Ibrox their World Cup qualifying Park, with the Scottish play-off will prove a good champions announcing this week that Walter Smith's reign as manager would finish at the end of the season.

Exactly 30 years ago, on 1

While Smith is aiming to guide Rangers to their tenth successive Scottish championship, Symon also had a more than respectable record, having won 10 trophies out of a possible 15 in

a five-year period. Symon, unhappy with the manner of his departure, announced his dismissal to the press before Rangers England in Stuttgart A 1-1 bad officially sacked him, declaring he would leave his

keys at the club and never re- fore a 1-0 defeat by the turn.

Netherlands ended their not THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

Loans/trials

John O'Kane (de Contributors: Phil Shaw, Nick Harris, Paul Newman

Readers' contributions welcome. Send to Sidelines, Spons Des The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharl, London E14 5

### The saga over the credit card bill has taken a disturbing turn



THE GAFFER TAPES

Honestly, I'm getting the hump big time with the FA. No sooner do you spot a way to earn a few extra bob and they clamp down. They never used to move this fast.

There I was, just getting a nice little spread-betting operation going on and they ban people in the game from doing it. The system I had was absolutely foolproof. I got a mate to put a wager on the time of the first substitution. Then I would deliberately pick someone I didn't really want to play and haul him off after five minutes. Since the buying price is about 40 minutes, it was a guaranteed killing.

Against my team's interests? Not at all, it had the effect of making the opposition think there was some masterplan involved - you'd be amazed how many times they then did a substitution as

That was the second bit of bad news I had this week. The

other was Walter Smith's decision to stand down. Obviously I was disappointed for Walter as he's an old mate, but I was more upset by the phone call I soon got from Gazza.

Apparently chairman David Murray has told him he's a shoo-in for the job as player-manager, so he won't now be coming to the Old Comfield. This is obviously a huge disappointment, not least because I fancied the Rangers job myself.

There's some jobs about though. As well as Rangers there's Benfica, Feyenoord, Doncaster Rovers and the Mop & Bucket's Sunday League team. I've checked the message on my answer machine just in case. With the theme tune to Match of the Day in the background, it goes: "You are through to the office of legendary manager Barry Gaffer, motto: 'No job too big'. Please leave a message and I'll get back to you

as soon as I've finished a pri-

vate coaching session for Ronaldo, Zola and Beckham in the back garden."

It had to be right as I was away in the week in Dublin. The play-off match was disappointing, but it didn't stop me enjoying the famous hospitality with Glenn, Craig and Mick afterwards. It was a bit embarrassing the way people kept asking me for my autograph in front of them, but they understood. With Sky TV shoving a camera up your nose every game, us Premiership managers are now more famous than any international coach.

The only problem was it was a bit of a late session and I had an early flight. So I booked myself a 7am breakfast-cum-alarm cail before going to bed. With these long hours I'm putting in these days I must be pretty tired because it seemed no sooner had I fallen asleep watching the inhouse video than room service arrived. It was sensational, a full cooked breakfast. every English and Irish newspaper, complimentary box of chocolates and a glass of bucks fizz. "This is impressive," I said to the waiter. "Is it because of who I am?"

"No sir," he said, "but the fact that it's now 9.30 might have something to do with it." Fortunately I got a later

flight, so I was back in time to compare notes with Kit Mann, my assistant. He'd gone to Moscow to watch the Italians play Russia. He seemed to think he'd had the worse deal, but it wasn't my fault he hadn't taken a coat. I would never have borrowed his crombie if he'd told me it was his only one.

Meanwhile, the saga over the credit card bill has taken a disturbing turn. I'd expected Mrs Hirem Firem to be a bit strange towards me after the chairman, her husband, claimed I'd incurred the bills on their joint card at the Hot Hands Massage Club (true)

and Black Lace Bar (not true). However, far from being all snooty about it she has suddenly started going out of her way to bump into me. She keeps saying things

like: "I always find a warm pair of hands ever so relaxing." I wouldn't mind except she's my sister-in-law and I think she's interested in blackmail as well as black lace. As usual, it'll be a relief to

get back to the football. We were briefly off the bottom after our point last week and I think we are getting a run together. There's the usual injury

worries. Shaun Prone is still in for observation after rolling his Skoda, Ivor Niggle has pulled a muscle answering the phone and Kit has frostbite. I hope he'll be OK by the evening as it's his job to light the fireworks at the club's annual display.

Barry Gaffer was talking to Glenn Moore

### Banning betting may prove an impossible task In its investigation into gambling by

professional footballers on their own sport, the Football Association may have opened a can of worms. Nick Harris believes that enforcing a no-betting policy will be as difficult as ever.

Revenue from football bets is rising between three and five per cent each year. Current estimates suggest that between £200m and £500m are wagered on football bets annually in this country.

Sir John Smith, the former ballers do bet – and on games Metropolitan Police deputy commissioner who led the FA's inquity into betting, said on Thursday that those who gamble, he they supporters, players or officials, "have become involved in the culture of betting that is apparent throughout every aspect of modern life, evidenced by the popularity of the National Lottery." In short, gambling is widely regarded as normal, healthy and is even

promoted by the Government. Sir John's report emphasised that for more than 100 years players have been banned from betting on matches. Yet it is generally acknowledged that many foot-

usual." Ternent said.

joining City on loan.

Middlesdrough debut

County into 12th place.

from Southampton.

in which they are involved. For many the key question is: does "recreational gambling" by players lead to corruption?

Sir John thinks not, as he found no evidence of corruption. However, he warned that any wagers by interested parties can create an environment with the potential to damage football's integrity.

In some instances, such as the laying of "spread" bets on the timing of throw-ins or corners, that risk is heightened and may facilitate what is effectively insider trading, David Howells, Tottenham's captain, says that he personally knows of cases where spread bets have led to

games being affected in this

Clarification of other betting activities is also needed and will happen. Most notably, revised FA rules will distinguish between secret forecasting for betting purposes and public forecasting in a general sense. Whereas it will remain against the rules for a player to self covertly information to a gambling syndicate, some information will be allowed to be sold. For example, West Ham's manager, Harry Redknapp, writes a weekly football tipping column in the Racine Post, and

he will be able to continue. The feasibility of a han on the majority of other gambling activities still has to be addressed. For example, it would not be difficult for any player who wished to continue gambling to ask a friend or relative to place a bet for them. And

Graham Sharpe, a spokesman for William Hill, said: "I can't see any objection in theory to allowing a player to have a small fun bet on a game in which he is taking part." He added that he knew of few instances in the past when the FA had done anything to imple-

ment its rules. "I suspect there

is an element here of the FA

bookmakers, who have ac-

cepted their bets in the past.

do not seem keen to stop

them continuing.

doing something," he said. It must also be doubtful

whether Sir John's recommendations would be effective. One is to send a copy of FA rules to all players. Another is to make the betting industry more aware of the rules and help enforce them by refusing to accept bets from footballers and ceasing to place betting slips in areas of football grounds which players and officials use exclusively.

Another key question is how the FA plans to enforce its rules. David Davies, the FA's director of public affairs, said that the governing body would use its full range of disciplinary

The West Ham striker John

Hartson has been charged with

misconduct by the Football

Association following his ver-

bal attack on the referee Mike

Reed after Monday's Premier-

homer", claiming that his per-

formance was "a disgrace that

deserved nought out of 10". On

Wednesday, West Ham and

Hartson apologised to Reed, say-

ing the remarks were made "in

the heat of the moment and were

not considered". Although

Reed accepted the apology,

The Football League has

he said the events were "out of

given Anton Johnson permis-

sion to continue his consor-

tium's £2m takeover attempt of

the struggling Third Division

Rotherham, was charged with

breaching League regulations on

being involved in more than one

yesterday he was not banned

from the sport, although they

"There were allegations

would keep an eye on events.

about Mr Johnson's involve-

ment in more than one club and

he was due to face charges con-

cerning breaches of regulations,

but he went out of football and

the charges were not activated."

standing and on file, and if Mr

Johnson becomes involved in

football again, the League will

chairman of Rangers, yesterday

denied that anyone had been

asked to succeed Walter Smith

as manager. Findlay dismissed

reports that his club are to of-

Donald Findlay, the vice-

"The charges are still out-

a League spokesman said.

look at the situation."

Johnson, the former owner of

club Doncaster Rovers.

11) JD 11964, DUI LIE L

his hands".

Hartson called Reed "a

ship defeat by Leicester.

Hartson charged

with misconduct

for Reed remarks

endeavouring to be seen to be measures - fines, suspensions and bans - to punish offenders. He added, however, that "the FA are not a police force".

Davies also said that he did not know whether bookmakers would be asked to inform on players who gambled in contravention of the FA's rules. Nor did he say how players would be prevented from asking others to place bets for

In short, for the past century the FA has banned betting by players but has generally failed to prevent them from doing so. Whether anything can effectively be done to change that in the future must be open to question.

fer Newcastle a £4m pay-off for

the services of Kenny Dalglish.

I do not think anybody has as yet

been asked to become manag-

er of Rangers, so I do not see

how anybody can refuse the

job," he said. "There are a num-

ber of names and people, and the

cisions have yet been made by

the Rangers board on Smith's

successor and said the nation-

ality of the new manager will

not be important, but a proven

track record in European com-

Dalglish is under consideration,

Findlay said that reports had

shown he had no interest in re-

turning north of the border.

come here, so no," he said.

"Clearly Kenny does not want to

Dalglish, however, was furi-

ous at the speculation. "It has

been suggested that being linked

compliment. I think it's an insult

to the fans of Newcastle. Their

intelligence has been insulted be-

it in any way, shape or form. I

don't want people to think that

because I watched Rangers as

operation that is likely to keep

There is no foundation in

cause it is total fabrication.

Asked on Radio 4 whether

petition will.

Findlay stressed that no de-

list will remain confidential."

"I think it is always as well to wait until people are asked and

Nationwide League First Division

12 Norwich v Bury .....

25 Gengham v Melwali ... 26 Grimsby v Southend 

Third Division 32 Barnet v Notts County... 34 Chester v Rochdale . 35 Darlington v Hull (10).

37 Hartlepool v Brighton 38 Lincoln v Leyton Orient ..... 39 Rotherham v Macclesfield ... Scarborough v Dencaster ... Shrewsbury v Mansfield. GM Vauxhali Conference

Famborough v Welling... Haves v Gateshead Hednestord v Yeovi ... Leek v Dover . Morecambe v Hereford ..... Northwich v Telford . Rushden v Slough ... Southport v Kettering .... Stalybridge v Stevenage

Rell's Scottish League Premier Division

First Division 45 Airdne v Raith 46 Dundee v Partick. - Hamilton v Morton ... 47 Stirling v St Mirren

Third Division - Berwick v Albion Rovers ..... - Cowdenbeath v Allos....... East Stirfing v Arbroath ......

a kid, I'm going to go back to work there," he said. Alan Moore, the Middles-TOMORROW brough winger, will go into hospital tomorrow for a double calf

m out for most of the season. Bryan Robson, the Boro manager, said: "Moore will be out for three or four months. possibly longer. It is frustrating for the player, but surgery was inevitable to cure his problems."

- Catherine Riley

#### Major weekend fixtures and pools check

TODAY

FA Carling Premiership 1 Aston Vila v Chelsea . 2 Bemsley v Blackburn . 4 Derby v Arsenal .... 5 Man Utd v Sheffield Wed .... 6 Newcastia v Leicester .... 8 Wimbledon v Coventry ......

13 Notim Forest v Crewe ....... 14 Oxford Utd v Man City ...... 15 Port Vale v Reading ..... 16 QPR v Birmingham ..... 17 Sheffield Utd v Tranmere.....

Second Division 21 Bristol City v Oldham.... 22 Burnley v Walseli .... 23 Carlisia v Wrexham 24 Fulham v Chesterfie 

33 Cambridge Utd v Torquay ....

Cheltenhem v Halifax....

43 Rangers v Kärnarnock ....... 44 St Johnstone v Motherwell ..

Second Division 4B Forfar v Clyde . Inverness ČT v Brechin ...... 49 Stenhousemuir v East Fife.... Stræmær v Livingston

Montrose v Dumbarton ...... Queen's Park v Ross Co .....

FA Carling Premiership Everton v Southampton (40).....

Nationwide League Second Division Cardiff v Swansea (1205) .

Scottish League Challenge Cup final Falirit v Queen of South (3.0) ... (at Fir Park, Motherwell)

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE PREVIEW

## Kinkladze keen to play 9despite crash

Perhaps an announcement that Alan Ball was about to return would have sent greater shudders through Manchester City supporters, but only that. When Georgi Kinkladze was involved in a car crash on Tuesday night, Maine Road held its collective breath.

The 23-year-old Georgian has been the only thing to make the last three seasons palatable for City supporters. As Francis Lee, the chairman, said: "Having him injured is the last thing we need but we are all so grateful he is not seriously hurt."

Kinkladze had 30 stitches inserted in his back but, surprisingly might appear against Oxford United today. "Gio is really keen to play," his manager, Frank Clark, said, "but we want to take a look at him fore making a decision."

- Tr. (182)

**1704** (1. . . . .

1211

City's enthusiasm to have Kinkladze back is underlined by his contribution in the corresponding fixture last season when he scored twice in a 4-1 victory, although who Clark will leave out is less clear. Jeff Whitley, his replacement in the 1-0 win over Crewe on Wednesday, was voted man of the match while Chris Greenacre,

making his debut, scored. Things are never duli at Maine Road - and Bury is hardly boring either. Earlier in the season the players refused to do any promotional work until a creche was provided and this week there was a mini-revolt over the hotel bill for last weekend's trip to Ipswich.

Thern ready



World Cup place can cap it all for Coultard

#### Photograph: Empics

#### Roker Park," he said. "It was Gary Walsh will make his debut in the Bradford City goal today very frustrating but I have no bitterness towards the club." - Guy Hodgson

#### to return for Rangers Rangers hope that the return of Wednesday night, a memento presented to her by West two of their overseas contingent Ham's old favourite Geoff Hurst to mark her century of

CANADA

The playing careers of Peter

Beardsley, Alan Ball and Bruce

Grobbelaar all benefited from

a spell with Vancouver White-

caps when the North American

Soccer League was at its zenith.

gone, soccer in Vancouver is

professional division, one lev-

el below Major League Soccer.

them, the 86ers have supplied

for today's match at home to Kilmarnock will restore their fortunes, following last week's defeat by Dundee United. The Scottish champions

have been without Jonas Thern for the last nine weeks because of a knee injury, but the Swede is expected to return today. Sergio Porrini is back after missing the Dundee United defeat with an ankle injury.

Kilmarnock will be without their goalkeeper, Dragoje Lekovic, who suffered a knee hjury while training with his Yugoslav colleagues before their World Cup play-off victory over Hungary in Budapest in midweek. The youngster Colin Meldrum retains his place.

Celtic will attempt to strengthen their position at the top of the table when they travel to Dunfermline, who are still without their injured captain Craig Robertson.

Darren Jackson and Tommy Johnson are both fit again after injury, but Wim Jansen, the Celic coach, has not recalled then to squad as he says they need match practice.

John Robertson, the Hearts veteran, hopes to make his 500th appearance for the club at Aherdeen today. The Frenchman Stéphane Adam, who has been preferred to Robertson re-Cently, is suspended.

Gillian Coultard left Upton Smith, kept them in with a chance of reaching the finals in Park hanging on to a comthe United States in 1999. memorative silver cap on Only the group winner will

ing forward to a play-off. But the cruel draw which placed England in a group including England appearances. England left Upton Park the European champions, Gerhanging on to their aspiration many, and the world champiof emulating their male counons, Norway, means they will require something extraorditerparts in qualifying for the nary if they are to go through. World Cup finals. And - Smith's precocious in-A 1-0 win over the Netherlands, courtesy of a moment of tervention apart - there was nothing extraordinary on view opportunism from their 17year-old midfielder Susan

Although the NASL is long deep financial trouble.

still alive - but maybe not for in July, but there have been no

much longer. Two years after takers. They are now on the

the NASL-and the Whitecaps brink. If a deposit of just

-folded in 1984, a new club was £32,000 is not lodged with the

formed, called Vancouver A-League by next week, the

86crs. They won four of the first club's franchise will expire.

five titles in the Canadian Soc- The current, and possibly the

cer League and now compete last, 86ers' coach is Carl Valen-

in the A-League, which is in ef-

fect North America's second West Bromwich winger. He

Like the Whitecaps before of work," he said.

"We have got to be realistic," Coultard said. "Being in a group with the world champions and the European champrogress, with the runner-up gopions it is going to be very, very difficult. But we wouldn't be

faced since 1978. Copeland said. "We would have had a major hill to climb if we at Upton Park.

players to English football, in-

cluding the Plymouth forward

Carlo Corazzin. The supply line

- and the focus for the many

soccer lovers in Vancouver -

may be about to end, though.

Like many other professional

soccer clubs in Canada and the

United States, the 86ers are in

was not optimistic last week.

"That's it. It's all over. I'm out

As a last resort the club have

The club was put up for sale

qualify."

At least England didn't lose against opponents they have not \*Tonight was very important," England's manager Ted

here if we didn't think we could

Harsh words had been re-

AROUND THE

WORLD

appealed to one of Vancouver's

soccer heroes for help. Tony

Waiters, the former Blackpool

quired to lift his players' performance after a dire first

"There were too many smiling faces and too many mediocre performances," Copeland said. "And Holland played better than we expected them to.

"One of the problems we've got is we have a lot of young players in the team and we are asking them for mature performances. Some of them let the pressure get to

them." England's next World Cup group match, at home to Germany on 8 March, is crucial. Copeland will attempt to maintain team spirit with regular training meetings and a number of friendly matches, starting with one against France in February.

The game against Germany, who beat England 3-0 in the opening group match last month, will be held at a venue yet to be arranged, but probably in the north. "That's the one," Coultard

said with a grim smile.

Mike Rowbottom

tracht Trier are the toast of tears after the defeat in Trier. Germany at the moment - except with fans of Borussia tional defender, Jürgen Koh-

and England goalkeeper and Plymouth manager, took the Whitecaps to the NASL title in third-round tie. Goals from Rudi Thömmes 1979 and then guided Canada to the World Cup finals in 1986. He now runs a soccer coach- a 2-1 home win in front of a summer. ing academy in Blaine, Wash-sell-out 18,000 crowd. It was a

to find new sponsors. It may be time in the Bundesliga, where too late, though.

#### GERMANY

Dorimund and Schalke 04.

Regionalliga West-Sudwest, have Bundesliga - anyone who reached the quarter-finals of doesn't understand the situathe German League by beat- tion we are in should think ing the Uefa Cup holders about changing clubs." (Schalke) in the second round and then the European champ- are already being asked about ions (Dortmund) in Tuesday's the job security of Nevio Scala.

and Marek Czakon gave Trier as coach at Dortmund in the

ington, and has been asked to humiliation for Dortmund, help in a last, desperate attempt who are also having a bad they are 14th out of 18 teams.

"We are in a crisis right now and no one knows what is going on," said Stefan Klos, Dort-A non-League club called Ein- mund's goalkeeper, who was in The experienced interna-

ler, said: "We are facing a Trier, the leaders of the relegation struggle from the Not surprisingly, questions

formerly in charge of Parma, who replaced Ottmar Hitzfeld

-- Rubert Metcalf

### McGivan calls bid trip 'a success'

England's World Cup bid team returned home yesterday convinced their hopes of capturing the 2006 event had been boosted by eight days of transatlantic lobbying. Alec McGivan, who heads

the bid team, Sports Minister Tony Banks, Sir Bobby Charlton and the chief executive of the Football Association, Graham Kelly, travelled to the United States, Trinidad and Tobago and Costa Rica to put England's case to three members of Fifa's executive committee.

McGivan said yesterday that the reception the team had received could not have been better. "The trip exceeded all our expectations," he said. "By going to these three countries we spoke to the representatives of the 37 North and Central American members. That's around a fifth of the football world, and in each case we had a very warm reception.

"I think it helped that we were the first bidding nations to go to see any of them, and it gave us the chance to fly the flag and sell England and the bid before the others got in.

"What it has shown is that you have to go out and meet people if you want to stage the World Cup. Bidding is an expensive business - but you won't win by sitting in an office in London.

McGivan added that the presence of Sir Bobby and

Banks had been a major factor in the success of the trips to see US representative Chuck Blazer, his committee colleague Isaac Sasso Sasso in San Juan and Jack Warner, the vicepresident of Fifa, the world gov-

erning body, in the West Indies. "All three of them commented on the fact that the Government was backing our bid so strongly and showing real support, while Sir Bobby was hailed as a football hero everywhere we went," he said.

"It's clear that there is great interest in the new Wembley and the other great grounds we've got. What came up time and again was that having so many foreign players in the Premiership is a big plus for us and the success we had in staging Euro 96 is also working in our favour."

McGivan hopes to talk face to face with all 24 members of the executive committee before the race begins for real at the finals in France next summer.

"We know we don't have a divine right to stage the World Cup and we must not be arrogant at all," he said. "It is far too early to be optimistic or pessimistic, but we've all been very buoyed up by the experience.

We won't get carried away. But to see so much interest in our bid, that we've made such a powerful impact already, is a big boost for everybody.

## A fanfare for the common manager

There was a time when David Jones might have been in the home dugout at Goodison Park tomorrow. As a native Evertonian, former Everton player and promising lower division manager, he should have been a strong contender to succeed Joe Royle this summer. The game has changed, however, and he will sit, instead, in the away dug-out. This week the Southampton manager talked to our football correspondent about the reasons why offering a fanfare for the

Sixteen years ago Everton were well at pre-Jack Walker Blackburn. Six years on, Howard Kendall had become their most

common manager.

successful manager ever. But that was before the Bosman ruling, share issues, Sky TV's millions and the cult of the personality chairman took over. Palmer and David Hirst from Everton do not appoint promis-significant of these could be the any more, they go for recent in- Tottenham suggested he could

ternational players, exotic foreign coaches or someone eise's Premiership manager. Everton recently gave Kendall a third stint at

the helm, but not before trying all the other options.

oton having decided to appoint the man who, as manager of Stockport County, knocked them out of last season's Coca-Cola Cup. Jones eventually steered Stockport and out of the relegation zone. to the competition's semi-finals and, more importantly, the First

Division. reward of assuming the most vulnerable position in the game. of the five games he [Le Tissier] Most clubs have a player of the has played we've won four and season award, some have a drawn one. Other players are goal of the season honour. At Southampton these are usually won by Matt Le Tissier so, to spice things up, they have a manager of the season.

Jones is the latest lucky winner after Ian Branfoot, Alan Ball, Dave Merrington and Graeme Souness. Since an already difficult job has been made immeasurably tougher by injuries to Le Tissier and Egil Ostenstad (who, in a rare break from tradition, was last season's Player of the Year), it is no surprise to find Davy Jones' lock-er anchored near the Premiership sea bed.

Apart from three heady days at the end of August, and the 25 hours between last Saturday's win over Spurs and Bolton's defeat of Chelsea, Southampton have been in the relegation zone since losing to Bolton on opening day.

"I knew what I was coming to," Jones said when we met at his impressive house overlooking Winchester earlier this week. "They have struggled for the last five years - I don't know how they got out of it last year. looking for a manager. They The same players are still here peered into the lower divisions so I knew it would be difficult, and saw a former player doing but I also knew if I could get the players in I wanted I could turn it around."

He has since signed Paul Jones and Lee Todd from Stockport, Kevin Davies (in an aleady planned deal) from Chesterfield and Carlton Clubs with the pretensions of Sheffield Wednesday. The most ing lower division managers £2m Hirst, whose brace against

BY GLENN

do for Southampton what John Hartson has done for West Ham.

"I had been chasing him for some time.

"He'd been there 10 years. I knew he wanted a new chalgood as, had other clubs know he was available, they might have come in.

"It was important psychologically to get off the bottom We have a lot of good players but some of them are underachieving. Saturday's win owed This earned him the dubious much to Le Tissier as well as Hirst. "It's no coincidence that lifted just by him playing, especially the ones who have

been here a long time. "Tve spoken to him about his



us and i'll do all your run-

be in the World Cup. He's very laid back but he's not as lazy as people assume. He does work hard in his own way and he cares. He's honest and a nice pro to work with. People think he's not ambitious because he decided to stay here, he is ambitious, he just likes it here."

Jones is also ambitious. When he succeeded Danny Bergara at Stockport he gave himself four years to reach the Premiership. He made it in two-and-a-half. "I felt if I turned game. Other managers appear Stockport into a good side

work we might have to give him ficult decision to leave, more an press. It is so time-consuming. two seasons with his brother, A former Evertonian, David lenge and first-team football. It the ball, that's his strength. awkward one because I had a It is a different way of life. You Mark, for Preston. At 29 his Jones, will be at Goodison Park was the first signing we've kept Carlton Palmer said to him great relationship with the can't go anywhere without be-knee had had enough and, tomorrow in the away dug-out, quiet from the press which was when he joined: "Get me 15 chairman. I've left the club ing recognised and not just though he played park football with a good squad and there's ning". That's what he's about. no reason why Stockport should "He's up for it, he wants to not be a force in the First Division. Whether they have got the resources to make that final jump... I don't know.

One of Jones' first thoughts when he took over at The Dell was what he would do with all the extra spare time. Last year he prepared Stockport for 67 matches, Southampton played 47, the Premiership average. However, any thoughts of lowering his golf handicap soon disappeared once the job began.

The biggest difference in the Premiership is that you

around here. My wife will hol go out with me. Your life is no longer your own."

It's not always been big houses and instant recognition for the 41-year-old. He was, in his own words, "a bread-and-butter player" but he was good enough to win England Under-21 honours and play full-back for the Everton side that pushed the champions, Nottingham Forest, all the way in 1977-78. At 23 he moved to Coventry to play in his preferred centre-half position but was injured in his third match\_

In two seasons Jones started don't have any time. If you are five more games before being re-

career was over. He is a laidback fellow but scratch the sur-

face and the hurt is still raw. There is understandable bitterness over the tackle which finished him. He will not name the guilty player but adds that, in the present climate, he could have sued him. There is also a belief that players should realise their fortune and make the most of their talent. You sense he feels his brother did not and his son may make the same error. This outlook was deepened by a spell playing and coaching in non-League followed by social

lem children. It was the need to be in-

volved in the game, and maybe make the mark he was denied names but there is no guaranthe chance to do as a player, tee a 'big name' will be sucwhich brought him back into football as Stockport's youth coach. It certainly was not the money - it meant a cut from social worker's wages.

It was also a risk. Married to Ann for 21 years, he has four children ranging from threeyear-old Georgia to 20-year-old Lea (currently looking for a club). Like many managers he relaxes on the golf course and with the company of a few close friends, people who remember Jones the promising youngster, Jones the crippled player and Jones the social

He feels passionately that

League and at Stockport has been vital. "Clubs have started to look for so-called big cessful. There are a lot of 2000 managers lower down who are not given the opportunity. The likes of Chris Waddle Inow managing Burnley] would have loved a big job in the Premiership but the experience be is getting lower down will stand him in fantastic stead.

"Look at Alex Ferguson, Martin O'Neill, Howard Kendall, Brian Little, Joe Kinnear... they all had an apprenticeship. If I do a half-decent job it might open the door for a lot of people, men like John Deehan and John Duncan, rather than having the same faces on the same merry-go-round."

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TENTAL COLUMN

### They think they've no chance before even kicking a ball

Given that Arsenal is among secures a professional contract the most cosmopolitan of foot- with a Premier League club, ball clubs, as well as home to and his subsequent struggle to arguably the highest profile make the grade. black player of the modern era, it was appropriate that Highbury was the venue chosen to that the title of the play Ooh launch the latest initiative in Aah Showab Khan gives this the Let's Kick Racism Out Of Football campaign, now simply known as Kick It Out. And, being an Arsenal fan,

the minister for culture, media and sport was more than happy with the location. the Commission for Racial "Every time I see Tony Banks wearing his Chelsea scarf I remind him how well Arsenal are doing," Chris Smith said.

But he ought to have known better than to trust the Highbury traffic, which caused him to be 20 minutes late. Not that his lateness mattered to anyone present, except perhans Michael Duberry. The Chelsea defender was the only Premiership player who turned up, but he looked distinctly uncomfortable at having to make room for the Secretary of State next to him.

But while the MP's lateness in no way detracted from the campaign's message that racism and prejudice have no place in football, it did mean he missed the performance of an extract from Kick It Out's new play about a young footballer who

Nothing unusual about that, you might think, except one away. The player in question is Asian, and Asian footballers are about as rare as a Stuart Ripley goal.

In fact, according to Sir Herman Ouseley, chairman of Equality, Asians are "practically invisible in the professional game", both on and off the pitch. Only one springs to mind, and he plays up in Greenock, home to Scottish First Division club Greenock Morton.

Jazz Jutla, who hails from the predominantly Asian Pollockshaw district of Glasgow, was a member of Rangers Youth Cup-winning side of 1995/95, yet was recently released after failing to make the first-team breakthrough. He was apparently a "a good enough player", albeit one who was was never going to stand a chance given Rangers' recent policy of signing big(ish) name players as opposed to

promoting from within. Bradford did have an Asian player called Chris Dolby on



BLAIR ON WHY THERE ARE SO FEW ASIAN **FOOTBALLERS** 

quite make the grade", according to manager Chris Kamara. But Bradford are doing more than most to encourage the Asian community - there are 180,000 Asians in the city - to become more involved.

They have an Asian Supporters' Club, but, according to Kamara, what they really need is an Asian player in the team. "We've employed an Asian scout and have Asian players on trial regularly, but they seem to think they've no chance even before they've kicked a ball." Hardly surprising, then, that

Footballers' Association, claims tential at 15 is ever a yardstick. he's got more chance of pick- But Murphy himself can't reing six Lottery winners than predicting when the first top-flight Asian footballer will emerge.

However, the PFA did help fund a recent report entitled Asians Can't Play Football from which they concluded that "while there's undoubtedly a huge pool of untapped talent among Asian footballers. it's down to the clubs to convey the message that everyone gets a fair crack of the whip."

That may not be the universal story, but it's certainly the tale the fictional Showab Khan would have us believe. In the play, he's remarkably upbeat about his lot, claiming he was subject to the same selection procedures as his white contemporaries.

That view is endorsed by the former Arsenal scout Terry Murphy, now at Wimbledon, who says: "It doesn't matter whether they're black, white, yellow or green, we'll take them if they're good enough."

But it's still hard to believe that West Ham, a club situated in a borough where the ethnic population is forecast to total 50 per cent of the population by the year 2000, have just one Asian on their books. Ac-Brendan Batson, deputy chief cording to Murphy, Koya Abul their books but he "didn't executive of the Professional should make the grade, if po-

member running the rule over any Asian talent recently; the last time he did a fight broke out between the two rival factions in an Asian Cup final.

It's certainly not aggression that Asian players are noted for, dedication more like, perhaps stemming from the need to prove themselves. On the downside you hear the familiar racial undertones: too thin. ankles too weak, can't play on Sundays, eat different food and worship a different God. In short, Asian faces - and their feet - don't fit.

Clifford Oliver, the play's author, is all too aware of the obstacles. "If I was an Asian player, I'd think seriously about embarking on a professional footballing career. In the 1960s we were highlighting the problems facing black players, yet three decades on we're discussing initiatives to combat those same problems. What kind of message does

that send out?" Not a very positive one, but there is light at the end of the tunnel in the shape of a 15year-old striker on Derby's books. He's quick, he's sharp. and he's got potential. More crucially, he's Asian. Amrit Sidhu - remember the name.

@ ③ •

#### FAN'S EYE VIEW NO 230: TOTTENHAM BY NICK PARKINSON

Abject despondency was passed long ago; self-pity is habitually wallowed in and envy is a raging bull close to exploding. As an anaesthetic to painful trips to White Hart Lane these days, I consciously slip into day-dream and reminisce about the early 80s rather than get despairingly upset about a club and stadium ravaged of its soul and honour. I am sick of moaning and need consoling. I survive thanks to my very

own fantasy football.

Using all the powers of my imagination, I take myself back to the first Tottenham side I can remember of that time. White Hart Lane, with a new West Stand, was brimming with excitement watching a team wearing those Le Coq Sportif shirts, dripping in grandeur and playing, undisoutedly, the most glorious football in Europe at the time. I thought there would be no end to the good times.

For style and entertainment Spurs were unassailable, with the Argentine World Cup pair Ossie Ardiles and Ricky Villa showing off their exotic flicks and skills.

Via a fruitful youth system and some shrewd acquisitions the team, in a five-year

period, won two FA Cups. reached a League Cup final when it was respectable to do so, challenged for the Championship, competed in Europe - including a Uefa Cup triumph - and it should

have been more. In the sombre atmosphere of White Hart Lane, 1997, I frequently recall the goals of Steve Archibald, Mark Falco, Garth Crooks and the underused talent of Micky Hazard to help me endure today's shoddy impostors. There was also Tony Galvin with his rolled-down socks, the sialom runs of Villa and the presence of Steve Perryman and Gra-

ham Roberts. The most unforgettable feature of the era was the bewitching midfield skills of Ardiles and Glenn Hoddle. The perception and dainty touch of Ossie was perfectly complimented by the genius of 'Oddle, together conducting a sophisticated display of football

Like countless others, I was mesmerised by the ease and grace with which 'Oddle moved and dissected an opposition with a debilitating ball. 'Oddle's vision and thought were sharper than any other and were greeted by sighs of admiration and wonder from thousands at a raucous White Hart Lane.

I am certainly not brought back to the present by excited noise reverberating around a doleful White Hart Lane. Tottenham have lost all the attractive playing style that their reputation was forged to and, moreover, are passively surrendering their prestige as lesser clubs leave us behind...

There have been unwist and modest moves in the transfer market, leaving Spos fans disillusioned and frus trated with little to cling to fit pride or hope. Ginola fleet ingly appears like 'Oddle in his untucked shirt, spraying 40% yard balls, but in a side short on imagination and with Dar ren Anderton breaking down more times than Long John Silver doing the bokey-color inspiration often comes through aerial bombardment. the deadly disease which Spurs seemed to have canel

from a previous Arsenal side Alan Sugar recently pressed a determination to repeat our illustrious page "to achieve greatness come again in the not-so district future". However, before the can happen a major clean-

حكذا من الاعل

## Wednesday guard against 'the Barnsley experience'

Sheffield Wednesday, second bottom and falling, step into the arena today where their hapless neighbours emerged mauled and bleeding last week. Guy Hodgson looks forward to their trip to Old Trafford along with other Premiership matches.

Nick Harris (below) analyses the weekend programme match by A little light shone in the tun- conceding 16 in six games, seasons and there is also Euronel of despair Sheffield Wednesday supporters found themselves in last Saturday. True, Crystal Palace had won at Hillsborough, but mischievous delight could be derived from Barnsley's seven-goal mauling at Old Trafford.

Then a look at the programme revealed the light in the distance was a train bearing down, Manchester United's next opponents are another struggling south Yorkshire team: Wednesday.

Struggling they undoubtedly are. Barnsley are bottom, to exploit it. We played very but just above them are well that day and that will give Wednesday, who have won only two Premiership fixtures since 16 April. They score three of their four matches with

suggesting David Pleat is the itis in their favour. United lost latest in a line of managers at Hillsborough who have failed to find a defence.

Not that Pleat, who had to endure calls for his sacking last week, was being defeatist yesterday, "We will have to be bold," he said, "The players should realise that most people would give their right arm to play in a place like Old Trafford.

i can remember going there a couple of years ago and we picked out what we thought was a flaw in their side and tried us encouragement."

Wednesday have drawn goals but leak like the Titanic. the champions over the last two

at Leeds before beating Juventus in the Champions' League and drew with Derby immediately before meeting Feyenoord, so if there is a good time to go to Old Traf-

to Rotterdam is it. They also arrive with David May and Ronny Johnsen definitely out and Henning Berg probably too short of match practice. Denis Irwin, who agreed a two-year contract yesterday, is available, but the Republic of Ireland international may be rested about of Wednes-

ford, three days before they fly

day's game against Feyenoord. Arsenal have a singular approach to the League after going out of the Uefa Cup, but

have cost them the Premiership high ground and without Dennis Bergkamp, who begins a three-match suspension.

Lying in wait is the Bald Eagle, who celebrated 25 years in management this week and senses his anniversary might coincide with appropriate silver. "It wouldn't come as a big surprise if we won something here," Jim Smith said, "although there's a lot of hard graft to be done before we can achieve it."

Newcastle have thrown pursuit of silver for four years and if Manchester United ertions, then Kenny Dalglish's ager, Roy Evans, is to remain

of successive 0-0 draws which jecture. All three of their anger provoked by a lame disgames prior to Champions' League matches have been lost, so Leicester can travel to St James' Park with a degree of confidence.

The Midlanders, fourth af-West Ham on Monday, have a miserly goals-against record on ter the Derby victory and said: their travels. Newcastle, who would be top if they won their three games in hand, have had their chicken-count muted by only one win in four matches.

Liverpool have also lost away gold in a so far fruitless their last two matches in the build-up to Uefa Cup games, but cannot afford to do so could be accused of being dis- against Bolton today. Not if tracted by their European ex- criticism of the Anfield man-

play in Strasbourg was dissipated by Saturday's win over Derby, but it will reappear should they fall further behind in the Premiership.

Paul Ince, the Liverpool capter their 2-1 home win over tain, summed up the mood. "I went into the dressing-room af-That's great. Now let's make sure we don't blow it at Bolton'. Our away record was pretty good until the last two games."

Bolton won their first League game at the Reebok Stadium last Sunday, which according to manager Colin Todd was psychological reinforcement in a general desire to make amends for the hapless campaign in the Premier- to prove people wrong."

they travel to Derby in the wake team leave little room for con- at bay any way. Some of the ship two seasons ago. "A lot of players were in that team and I think it had a great effect on them," Todd said. "They have a point to prove and I think it's showing in our performances. Everyone has come a long way since then,"

So have Barnsley, although last week's defeat proved the trip can be painful. They would have preferred a nice, gentle fixture to ease themselves back in, but got Blackburn - third in the Premiership with only two de-

feats in 15 fixtures - instead. "We have to be more resilient in our overall play and concentrate harder," Danny Wilson, the Barnsley manager. said. "Being written off by so many people does motivate us

### Aston Villa v Chelsea

Ruud Gullit includes Gianfranco Zola and Roberto Di Matteo in an 18 mati-squad today, despite their international exertions for Italy in midweek. French defender Bernard Lambourde is available again after suspension but Dennis Wise and Gianluca Vialli are still banned and Gullit is also without the injured quartet of Gustavo Poyet, Graeme Le Saux, Michael Duberry, and Paul Hughes, although the last two have now resumed training. Mark Hughes will be partnered in attack by either the Norwegian Tore-Andre Flo or Gianfranco Zola. Aston Villa goalkeeper Mark Bosnich could be missing for five weeks through injury and international commitments. He is already virtually certain to be out today with a knee injury, and he has World Cup commitments to fulfil on his recovery. Villa will definitely be missing Stan Collymore, suspended as well as being ruled out after a nose operation that is likely to keep him on the sidelines for an-



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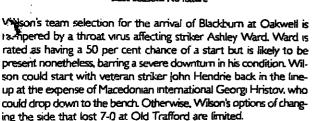
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#### Barnsley v Blackburn

other couple of weeks. Midfielder lan Taylor, having treatment to a

hamstring strain, is he sing to return.



Blad burn striker Martin Dahlin has a back injury and misses the game, but winger Jason Wilcox is back after a three-match ban. Defend er Jeff Kenna returns from World Cup duty with the Republic of Ireland and seems certain to play, probably at the expense of the Frenchman Patrick Valery. Rovers may be otherwise unchanged from the side that drew 1-1 at Newcastle last week, with Wilcox probably left to settle for a place on the bench. Blackburn are unbeaten away from home.



#### **Bolton v Liverpool**

Last season: No fixture



Jamie Pollock is set for a recall to the centre of Bolton's midfield. Pollock was relegated to the bench last weekend and has been played out of position on the right wing all season. He is likely to replace play-maker Scott Sellars, who begins a three-match suspension, while Gerry Taggart starts a six-game ban. Andy Todd serves the third her smatch ban. Mike Whitlow returns after illness, with Jim-🏂 Phillips or Steve McAnespie replacing Taggart, and Gudni Bergs-

son moving alongside Mark Fish at the heart of defence. Liverpool are expected to be unchanged although both Patrik Berger and Karlheinz Riedle have recovered from the injuries which kept them out of the Uefa Cup defeat in Strasbourg and the 4-0 victory over Derby last weekend. The pair are both added to Roy Evans' squad but are likely start on the bench. Mark Wright is still out with a back injury while Phil Babb and Jamie Carragher are making rapid progress from their injuries, although they are unlikely to be risked today with the Strasbourg game on Tuesday.



#### Derby Co v Arsenal

Leading scorer

England Under-21 defender Matt Carbon should earn a first-team recall for Derby. Carbon, whose only other senior appearance this season was as an emergency striker on the opening day at Blackburn, is expected to play in a three-man central defence. Gary Rowett returns at wing-back but manager Jim Smith is still without Igor Stimac (back) problem, Italian international Stefano Eranio (hamstring) and midfielder Robbie van der Laan (ankle). Lee Carsley returns in midfield after World Cup duty with the Republic of Ireland.

Dennis Bergkamp begins his three match suspension, which he has said will give him time to recover from an injured ankle. His suspension leaves the way clear for Nicolas Anelka's first Premiership start. The teenage prodigy has been limited to appearances as a substitute in the league but could partner lan Wright up front aftes the 0-0 draw with Aston Villa. Dutch winger Marc Overmars hopes to return after missing the last two games with an an-



#### Man Utd v Sheff Wed

Leading scorer Lest season: 2-0

Denis Irwin is the enly new injury doubt for Manchester United today. Republic of legand international Irwin picked up a slight thigh strain in the midweek World Cup I-I play-off draw against Belgium. Henning Berg could be fit to return after missing the last two games with a himstring flury, but David May and Ronny Johnsen are still out United will tender the optimism caused by last weeks 7-0 thrashout United was easier the openism caused by ast weeks 7-0 that are ing of Bansley by Emembering this season's two pre-European forture days of formative; lost 1-0 at Leeds before beating Juventus and only drew at party before the home win over Feyencord. Sheffield Wednesday expect to choose a virtually unchanged team from the one that test 3-1 at home to Crystal Palace last week for today's challenge of challenges against Manchester United at Old Trafford. The onlygiouth is over Lee Briscoe, who has a calf strain, while Italian pair Basito Carbone and Paolo Di Canio are both ex-

pected to recover them leg strains. Wednesday have yet to win away them this seem, and with only nine points from twelve games.

#### ...And statistics

in safe hands

Walker played in 105 consecutive

Premiership matches before he was

ruled out of Tottenham's final game

of last season. From the start of the 1994-95 season Walker has played in 128 out of Tottenham's 130 Premiership

Top of the

Players with best current ever-present record at each Premiership club

Aston Villa: Ugo Ehlogu -Barnsley: Adrian Moses -Blackburn: Colin Hendry-

Coventry: Steve Ogrizovic

C Palace: Andy Roberts

Derby: Christian Dailly

Everion: Gary Speed Leeds: Gunnar Halle

Leicester: Matt Elliott

Liverpool: David James

Sheff Wed: Ian Notar: Southampton: Paul Jones Tottenham: Steve Carr — West Ham: Steve Lomas-

Wimbledon: Chris Perry-

(Figures include substitute appearances where applicable)

Man Utd: David Beckham

Bolton: Scott Sellars Chelsea: Ed de Goey

class

#### Hail James the first

Few Premiership players come in for as much criticism as David James, but the Liverpool goalkeeper can boast at least one proud record: his current run of 143 consecutive Premiership appearances for the same club is more than

double that of any other player.
In an age when many leading clubs have built up large squads and rotate their players on a regular basis, his record is outstanding, James has not missed a Liverpool Premiership game since he took over from Bruce Grobbelaar in the 89th

Goalkeepers, not surprisingly, often have the best appearance records. Coventry's Steve Ogrizovic has the best current record after Liverpool's David

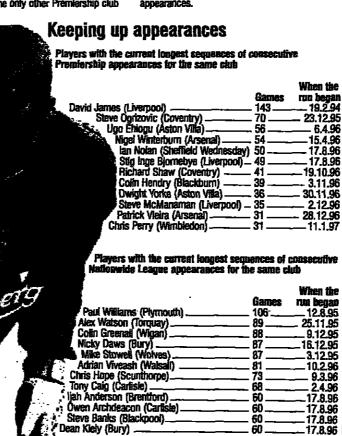
James, while Tottenham's Ian Walker would have been high up the list but for an injury at the end of

February 1994. Indeed, Liverpool have three representatives in the top 10 list of players with the longest runs of consecutive appearances for one club, with the defender Stig Inge Bjornebye (49) and the forward Steve McManaman (35)

Chelsea, who use the squad system more extensively than any other club. For example, only Ed de Goey, the goalkeeper, is ever-present this

with just one ever-present player this season (Paul Jones), while Arsenal and Leicester City, each with seven ever-presents, have fielded the most consistent fine-ups. Indeed when it comes to selection Arsenal might even be described as boring: David Platt, for example, has come on as Liverpool's record is in stark contrast with that of a second-haif substitute in 11 of their 12 games

record is Plymouth Argyle's left back, Paul Williams, who has made 106 consecutive



Dean Kiely (Bury) Players with the current longest sequences of consecutive appearances for the same club playing in both the Premiership and First Division When the

Andy Roberts (Crystal Palace) Lionel Perez (Sunderland) —— Dean Gordon (Crystal Palace) Adrian Moses (Barnsley) Steve Chettle (Nottingham Forest)-Genry Taggart (Bolton)
Des Lyttle (Nottingham Forest) Andy Linighan (Crystal Palace)

#### End of the road

Significant sequences that have ended recently

Scott Selfars (Bolton)

Alan Wright's run of 83 consecutive Premiership appearances for Aston Villa ended when he was a non-playing substitute at Tottenham in August.

Mike Hynn's run of 137 consecutive appearances for Stockport County ended after he was injured against Birmingham City in August.

Micky Eaden played 136 consecutive games for Barnsley until he missed the match at Eventon in

#### FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: HOW THEY STAND

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Newcastle v Leicester

Kenny Dalglish's injury crisis has deepened with the news that emergency centre-forward Keith Gillespie (calf) almost certainly will not be fit, lan Rush still has knee trouble but is hoping to return to the Magnies line-up, but Alan Shearer and Faustino Asprilia remain unavailable. Republic of Ireland goalkeeper Shay Given will replace Pavel Smicek, while captain Rob Lee and fellow England team-mate Steve Howey are both available to start, after fully recovering from thigh muscle and calf injuries respectively.

Newcastle will be wary of their pre-Europe form ahead of next week's Champions' League match. They have lost their Premiership fixture prior to the previous three. Steve Claridge is Leicester's biggest injury doubt. The veteran striker has aggravated a knee injury and will be replaced by either Tony Cottee or Graham Fenton if he fails a late fitness test. Frenchman Pegguy Arphevad continues in goal while Kasey Keller recovers from a dislocated thumb. Defender Steve Walsh (harnstring) has resumed training but will not play.



Tottenham v Leeds

Leading scorer



Tottenham are hoping a trio of internationals will return to the team to face Leeds. England players Darren Anderton and John Scales played the full 90 minutes of a reserve game against loswich on Wednesday, while Norwegian Under-21 striker Steffen Iversen was on the pitch for 45 minutes and scored in the 2-1 win, But Swiss defender Ramon Vega and Portuguese winger Jose Dominguez both face late fitness tests.

Gunnar Halle faces a late fitness test for Leeds after limping off at Wimbledon last week with a groin injury, so 19-year-old Irish de-. fender Alan Maybury may deputise. Gary Kelly may play at rightback on his return from international duty with the Republic of Ireland: Kelly has been operating on the right of midfield lately after spending most of his career in defence. If Halle is fit and Kelly returns on the right flank, Lee Bowyer will be dropped to the bench. Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink is available after completing a ban but will be on the bench. Harry Kewell and Rod Wallace will play up front.



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#### Wimbledon v Coventry Cort 5

Leading scorer



Wimbledon will recall Republic of Ireland defender Kenny Cunningham. who is back from international duty and replaces stand-in Duncan Jupp. Young striker jason Euell will be out until the New Year. Euell, 20, will have an operation on his injured shoulder next Monday which will keep him out for two months. He dislocated his shoulder at Bolton earlier this month. Wimbledon will also be without Jon Goodman, who also goes into hospital on Monday for an operation on cruciate knee ligaments.

Coventry defender Roland Nilsson hopes to play with a lightweight strapping on his injured arm. The Swedish international right back cracked an arm bone when he blocked a shot in last week's match against Everton and has been in plaster. Gordon Strachan expects to field his first choice strike partnership, Dion Dublin and Darren Huckerby, for the first time in six weeks now Dublin has completed a three match suspension. Paul Telfer, out for a month with an ankle injury, is likely to be on the bench.



#### **Everton v Southampton**

Leading scores



After being held to a 0-0 draw at Coventry last weekend, Everton will welcome back Slaven Bilic and Terry Phelan from international duty in midweek. Bilic is unlikely to play due to illness, while Phelan should start in an otherwise unchanged line-up from last week. This fixture last season brought Everton a 7-1 victory, something they would like to repeat in their current position, fifth from bottom of the Premiership with 12 points. Danny Cadamarteri, currently in contract negotiations, can increase his worth by maintaining the recent scoring spree that makes him his dub's current top striker.

Norwegian international striker Egil Ostenstad will be Southampton manager David Jones' only injury casualty when he returns to his old club Everton, as a manager, tomorrow. Ostenstad will be out of action until Christmas following ankle surgery, but lones has the luxury of an otherwise fully fit squad. Matth Le Tissier has recovered from a thigh muscle strain, and Ken Monkou (harnstring) is fit. Kevin Davies will partner David Hirst up front following Michael Evans' departure to West Bromwich last week.

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GOLF: VOLVO MASTERS

### Montgomerie on wrong side of fence as Clarke closes

The battle for the No 1 spot in Europe took a dramatic twist in the second round of the Volvo Masters when Colin Montgomerie found himself out of bounds. Andy Farrell reports from Jerez on an Uisterman's challenge to the temperamental Scot.

With precious little else to defend it from the birdie barrage inflicted on it by the leading players of the European tour, what Montecastillo definitely needed was some wind. It took its time arriving from across the plains of southern Spain, but when it did, the effect was decidedly ill for Colin Montgomerie.

With two rounds to go. Montgomerie's hopes of a fifth consecutive order of merit victory, which would set a record, have not yet been blown of the Volvo Masters, it is Darren Clarke who suddenly poses the biggest threat.

Clarke, who needs to win to have any chance of the No 1 spot, scored an eight-under 64. When he finished his round, the Ulsterman was tied for the lead at 11 under. Montgomerie ally would have been the full was also on the same mark playing the 16th hole. But not for

What has put Montgomerie behind the eight-ball was the into the rough on the right, and was 163 yards to the pin and in what is known as a flying lie. But Montgomerie did not expect his eight-iron shot to take off like a jump-jet and carry as far as 180 yards, into a ploughed field left of the green.

He immediately played a provisional and if the result of that had been better than finishing in deep hay by a bunker, the following episode may not have happened. To all reasonable assessment, Montgomerie's original ball lay out of bounds.

But when a referee indicated this to the Scot, he replied: "I don't see a fence, okay. It's as simple as that. If you have not marked the course properly, that's not my fault."

Montgomerie then called for the tournament director, John Paramor, who finally arrived in a white buggy, at a speed somewhat below that of Seve Ballesteros's at the Ryder Cup. Indicating two distant posts that signified the out of bounds, Paramor told Monty: "I have to make a judgement, off course. But after two rounds that's why I'm here. It's out of

> There was no reply from the Scot and he proceeded to fluff his provisional into a bunker, from where he took three to get down. The only hazard he avoided on the hole was the water on the right, otherwise it re-

Ironically, two months ago at Crans-sur-Sierre Joakim Haeggman was playing with Montgomerie when the Swede triple-bogey eight he took at the hit his ball into a garden alongpar-five hole. The Scot drove side the course. Again, there was no nearby found a thick patch of grass. He bounds posts and while



Colin Montgomerie finds himself in trouble after driving into the rough on the léth yesterday. The Scot dropped three shots at the par-five hole

Haeggman argued the case that They are being put in now." his ball was in play, Montgomerie aligned himself with the prosecution counsel.

Paramor said of yesterday's incident: "The ball was 25 yards out of bounds. There was a fence, but it had fallen down. There should have been more while Clarke shares third, one

Montgomerie closed with two pars. His 71 left him at eight. under, the same score that his nearest pursuer on the order of merit, Bernhard Langer, finished with a birdie at the last. The pair are in joint 11th place,

playing partner who scored a 67, and Patrik Sjoland.

Clarke, who had lagged behind after an opening 69, put together seven birdies and an eagle to post the best score of the day. Despite compiling a fine season, the Open runnerup would dearly like to achieve posts there, but we never behind the joint leaders Lee his first victory of the year. Westwood, Montgomerie's Should he do so, Montgomerie

would have to finish in the topnine, or Langer second, for him not to top the order of merit.

Langer's caim countenance was disturbed when he flung his club into his bag after taking two from a bunker for his second bogey in a row at the 14th. But it has been Montgomerie who has appeared uptight all week. After signing his card,

recorder's room reflecting on his misfortunes for 40 minutes, a highly unusual amount of time in this sport. When he emerged, he said: "Whether I shot a 64 or whatever, I could not have won it today and I certainly haven't lost it. I just needed some time to myself and that's wise."

Montgomerie sat in the

MONDAY'S

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**SPORTS** 

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### TWELVE PAGES OF SPORT BEGIN ON PAGE 17

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD By Mass No. 3445. Saturday 1 November Friday's solution

Last Saturday's solution

#### ACROSS

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strength (6) Basn in carriage with one American diner

Point at yellow wheeling bird (5) 11 Pace the Northern blow (4) 12 Grand ethos turned out contrary (10) 13 Notable as a sports

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19 Many had engaged new worker (8) 22 Bug's cut round blighted pears, note (10) 23 Suit with short crease

25 Pen hot acrimony (5) 26 Stop humming! (9) 27 Cheat's fly, taking in City (6) 28 Called back Diamond

in bidding (6) The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardbacked copies of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword. P.O. Box 4918, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5BL. Please as the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: J Dyer, East Mortou; W George, Brousyard; N Webb, Guiseborough; R Burnett, Houghton le-Spring, A Vincent, Bexleyheath.

21 Check will do for wedding, they say (6) 24 Progress report (4)

**FOOTBALL** DOWN

wrong (7) Corresponds in bursts

Tart's not quite done: remind cook (8) That's just fine! (6) Mark editor deleted

Tangle with French lad protecting brother (7) Arrest insect boring into spot in tree (6-5) 10 Songster's piece vo-

calised in drink around grand (11) 14 Watch issue raised over very good EEC changes (9)

16 Intake required by the fleet? (4,4) 18 Dirt caught in shoe (7) 20 One on Scottish isle initially making for bar

### Board blocks Hodgson's bid

Hodgson declined to identify

someone but it's not possible.

We've got a very small squad at

and the club president Jack that it would not make Walker are believed to be interesting reading." strained after the club's chairman and board refused to pay the player, as "it would not be for a new addition to fair". He added: "I want to buy

Hodgson's title-chasing team. The Rovers manager's efforts to sign a new left-back the moment." to bolster the squad he has guided into contention for the title have been balked over the player's terms, infuriating the

former Internazionale coach. Hodgson said: "It's a myth that this club has millions to spend and it should be dismissed. I don't have a great deal and Graham Fenton have all left

Blackburn have been watching left-backs across Europe this season, with the Juventus and Portugal defender Manuel Dimas a key target.

Rovers have been a selling club of late. Graeme Le Saux, Henning Berg, Paul Warhurst

Relations between Roy Hodg- of money to spend. There are for a total of more than £10m. son, the Blackburn manager, so many riders on the money Hodgson has spent less on his new arrivals and, before he arrived, apparently believed there was more money available.

> Blackburn have still hardly dipped into the record £15m they received for Alan Shearer from Newcastle. Walker has stopped transfers in the past. because he deemed players too old and has occasionally refused to sanction high wages. However, Hodgson will not accept his moves being overruled - and the row at the Rovers could have long-term

> > - Alan Nixon

IN

What really made me dange my ways was when my mother threw me out of the house. She'd just had enough of me. She's always backet me to the hilt, even when ive been in the wrong, but she wasn't going to let me throw everything away. It wasn't really about snooker, but more about my attitude.' 🤚

Ronnie O'Sullivan es la 1 Stafford how he revised his flagging snooker care

#### MOTOR RACING

#### No sportsmanship award for Schumacher

Michael Schumacher's actions in the Grand Prix of Europe last tention for the best international weekend have not only cost him the world championship, but now also put him out of contention for one of the top ITV-

Schumacher was in consportsman prize at the awards ceremony being staged at Wembley tonight, but his nomination has been withdrawn following his Barclaycard Champions of Sport collision with Jacques Villeneuve in Jerez last Sunday.

The German, who was widely condemned for the crash, has instead been replaced by Villeneuve in the nominations for the award, which will be judged by a panel including the minister for sport, Tony Banks, Sally Gunnell and Sharron Davies.

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for them hath the Lord chosen to carry

Chronicles 15:2



for it is written

